At the June union meeting we voted to cancel the July and August meetings this summer. The next meeting will be a quarterly notified meeting September 10 at 7pm. We had great weather at the outing this past weekend. Thanks to the work of Jim Griffin, Mo Demers, Steve Lachance and the kitchen crew of John Cashin, Mark Aslanian, Sam Eames, and Gary Travis for another successful outing.

The New Hampshire Building Trades have been working on a strategic plan with the goal of increasing market share in NH. The plan was approved by the affiliates and submitted to the National for approval as well as any resources the National could commit to the plan. At this time the National has committed $60,000 to the implementation of the plan. The plan lists both long term and intermediate goals for the NH Building Trades but the main objective of the plan is to put New Hampshire building trades members to work on construction projects in our communities.

There are several projects that we have taken an active role in pursuing. The NH Building Trades has been meeting with the owners and developers of the Merrimack Mall project, the Laidlaw Energy Project in Berlin and the Jac-Pac Elliot project. Although we do not have firm commitments for 100% union projects at this time, I believe we are making progress in selling a union workforce on some of these projects. We also have met several times with PSNH on the Wet Scrubber Project at Merrimack Station. As of the last meeting, PSNH is leaning toward releasing the project to Washington Group to be worked under the National Maintenance Agreement. Under an NMA we will be guaranteed that the work under Washington Groups scope will be all union. At present, the time line for the project calls for demo of existing buildings after the fall outage, with the bulk of the work to start in the spring of 2009.

The NH Building Trades is also setting up meetings with hospitals throughout the state that have planned expansions. We are continuing to push for responsible employer language to be included in bid documents. We are looking for language that gives preference to employers that pay good wages and provide health and pension benefits.

All the trades affiliated with the NH Building Trades have made a commitment of time and money to work toward the goal of putting our members to work.

The local has purchased 10 tickets to the NH AFL-CIO Labor Day Breakfast. Anyone interested in attending should contact the hall for details.

Work in the area has been slow to start this spring. We lost two big jobs to the non-union sector. One was the Huggins Hospital in Wolfeboro and the other was the Cheshire County House of Correction in Keene. We are still waiting on the award of the Life Science Center at Dartmouth College in Hanover.

Work on the road is also slow to start, with very little activity for travelers at the Bristol Myers Plant in Devens MA or the Salem area of MA that was scheduled to be very busy in late spring. We have members on the road in MA, MD, NJ, SC, WI, FL, AZ and NV.

We currently have:
* 142 members working for Local Contractors
* 15 members working for out of town Contractors
* 29 members working on the road
* 54 members out of work

O’Connor has been awarded some general maintenance work at Schiller Station and has hired 4 members for approximately six weeks.

Poirier & Springer has hired 6 of our members for work in Bedford for the summer.

Ambient Temperature Corporation hired 2 of our members for a chiller replacement at the Bank of America building in Manchester and is bidding some work at UNH in Durham.

NPI picked up some work at UNH on the steam tunnels and hired 4 confined space qualified members for that work. They also put on an extra brazing qualified member for work at Osram-Sylvania in Manchester.

RTH has hired 6 members for work at the PNSY, the VA Hospital and the Londonderry Bus Terminal with the anticipation of more hiring once the work opens up at the shipyard.

Members interested in working in Massachusetts are required to have either a MA Fitters License or a MA Plumbing License. Please contact me for more information and application information.
The academic year has come to a close. Congratulations go out to our one and only graduate this year... Brian Gentile.

Final grades will be calculated and the “Apprentice of the Year” will be announced in the August newsletter.

I would like to thank all of the individuals who assisted with the training program this year... their dedication and determination makes our training program a success!

We have been able to place five new apprentices with contractors over the last few months. Apprentices spend 95% of their time training in the field with various members and only 5% of their training is done in the classroom!

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EACH AND EVERY MEMBER ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAINING OF OUR APPRENTICES. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE THE FUTURE OF THIS ORGANIZATION... THEY WILL BE CONTRIBUTING TO THE RETIREMENT AND HEALTH CARE FUNDS THAT WILL SUPPORT US IN OUR RETIREMENT!

Plumbing Seminar: August 11, 2008, 6 pm!

Office Bits & Bytes
Mo Demers / Office Administrator

- When driving at dusk, dawn, or foul weather, turn on your headlights. Even though you can still see fine in the low light, the point is to be sure that the other drivers can see YOU.

- Never mix bleach and ammonia. The combination creates fumes that can kill you.

- For smooth, creamy mashed potatoes, add a couple heaping tablespoons of mayonnaise.

- Ladies: When wearing white slacks or blouses, prevent embarrassing show through by wearing beige or skin-tone undergarments. Never wear white under white.

- Used dryer softener sheets are great to reuse on your Swiffer-style floor mop. And cheaper than buying the brand name sheets designed specifically for the mop.

- How to fold a fitted sheet: Find two corners on the same side of the sheet. Stick a fist into each corner pocket. Bring your fists together in front of you and invert one pocket over the other so both are now on one fist. Removing your fist, the corners will stay together. Repeat with the other two corners, this time keeping the double pocket on one fist. Take the first doubled pocket and invert it over the two on your fist. Now all four pockets are nestled together. Lay out on a flat surface, adjust to square all edges and finish folding.

- How to remember a name: Run through the alphabet. Start with “A” – say to yourself as many “A” names as come to mind (Allan, Arthur, Andy, Amos...). Proceed to “B” then “C” and so on. When you get to the right letter, the name will pop back into your head. This works because it gives your brain smaller chunks of data to search through to find the name rather than randomly searching all the possible names in your memory all at once. It really works. I use this trick all the time.

- Don’t buy ice for the picnic. Freeze several different sizes of (recycled!) plastic bottles filled with water to keep food chilled in a cooler. When the water melts, you can drink it! Or use any drink you like. Be sure to leave expansion room. Don’t fill the bottle to the top. As it freezes, the liquid will either pop the cap or burst the bottle.
NOTICE
Meetings have been suspended for July and August

The next scheduled union meeting is Sept. 10, 2008
This is a Quarterly Notified Meeting
Apprentices are REQUIRED to attend.

♦ The monthly Retirees’ Breakfast gathering will continue through the summer. The next is Monday, July 07, 9:00 am at City Side Grill in Concord

MEMBER NEWS

Condolences to Family & Friends of:
(check website www.ualu131.org for obituary)

How can you take away 1 from 19 and leave 20?

REDUCE / REUSE / RECYCLE
- Plastic -

Most families throw away 90 lbs of plastic a year.

Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.

Plastics take up to 400 years to break down in a landfill.

Plastic bags and other plastic rubbish thrown into the ocean kill as many as a million sea creatures each year.

When it’s written in Roman Numerals (letters), XIX (19) takes away one (the I, leaving XX (20))

Insurance Programmers will have representatives available at the Union Hall for private conference 11:00 am to 12:00 noon on the following dates:
July 24 * Sept 16 * Nov 12

Please schedule an appointment so information regarding your concerns can be assembled prior to your meeting. 1-800-446-8646

Local Union 131 Retirees Association
Jimmy Griffin / President

♦ The monthly Retirees’ Breakfast gathering will continue through the summer. The next is Monday, July 07, 9:00 am at City Side Grill in Concord

♦ THERE WILL BE NO RETIREE MEETINGS JUNE / JULY / AUGUST Meetings will resume Sept 9, 2008

Please keep me informed of any moves, illnesses or the passing of any retirees so we can keep track of everyone and send cards and flowers, congratulations or condolences as appropriate.
Annual dues ($10.00) will be due at the September meeting. Hope to see you there. Enjoy the summer!

“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as ‘right-to-work.’ It provides no ‘rights’ and no ‘work.’ Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining. We demand this fraud be stopped.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.