Here we go again! Speaker O’Brien has scheduled two more legislative sessions this year the first is Wed. Nov 30th at 9am and the last session is scheduled for Dec. 13th at 10am. On Nov. 30th he intends to take up an amendment dealing with education funding, the Dec. 13th date he plans to finish all the outstanding business from the 2011 session. Both dates are an opportunity to again try to get the votes to over ride the Governors veto of HB 474 “Right to Work”. Any members who can attend please contact us for details, we need to show up and support the legislators that have been standing with us and supporting the veto.

The House ED&A Committee has passed HB 517 out of committee on a 14-0 vote Ought to pass. The bill merges the plumbers and gasfitters boards. Licenses will be granted as a mechanical license with sub specialties. The rule making, definitions, inspections, disciplinary procedures and fee structures will be uniform. The new structure should save the cost of duplicating staff and bring savings to the licensees. Now the bill will head to the full house with an “ought to pass” recommendation, then to the senate.

Steve and I attended a job fair in Berlin on Nov. 10th hosted be Berlin Mayor Paul Grenier. There were approximately 200 local people in attendance looking to work in various trades at the Berlin Biomass Project. The Mayor has been a strong supporter of the project, and a proponent of union labor to build the facility. The trades that comprise the building trades have made a commitment to the mayor that we will employ local people and give opportunities to local people for apprenticeships. When the job ramps up in the spring we will be looking to hire a couple local apprentices.

Work in the area continues to be excellent with full employment and 17 travelers working in the local. Work on the road continues to be good with members working in NY, VT, MA, OH, IL, TN, MS, WI, FL and AZ.

We currently have:
* 136 working for local contractors
* 67 working locally for out of town contractors
* 30 working on the road
* 13 members out of work

Federal Piping is looking for a full time Heat Technician for the North Country under the Residential Agreement. Please contact me ASAP if interested.

RTH has started work on the Dartmouth Inn in Hanover and has hired 4 members to date. They expect to hire 10–16 more for Plumbing & Heating over the next few weeks.

AZCO has 33 members working on the Secondary Waste Water Treatment Plant at Bow and has room to hire 15-20 more for day and nightshift within the next few weeks. They are trying to meet a completion deadline of the end of January 2012 by working 6-10s.

NPI has begun to slow down with their remaining projects being the Plumbing and Heating on the Manchester Municipal Center and the Plumbing on Hypertherm in Lebanon.

B&W has begun to hire on the Berlin Biomass Project. I put 9 members there to date that they are telling me will work through the winter on that project. The next hiring will be in the spring of 2012.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and look forward to our kids Christmas party on Sunday December 4th.
Retirement membership dues (just $10! for the year) are due. These funds are used to benefit our own retirees. Please be sure to get your dues in ASAP! (Additional donations always gratefully accepted!)

Dec. Meeting Speaker (TBD) on assisted living.

If you want to see something in the newsletter, let me know. - Jimmy Griffin 603-736-4626
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The November Union meeting was a notified meeting to vote on changes to the Local 131 By-Laws, as posted in last month’s newsletter. All proposals passed. Below are the highlights that directly affect you, the member.

**Effective JANUARY 2012**

In order to comply with the United Association’s minimum requirements for membership dues as per Sec 130 of the UA Constitution, the Local 131 dues rates for active members will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dues Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journeyman</td>
<td>$35.00 a month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprentices</td>
<td>$26.00 a month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tradesman</td>
<td>$26.00 a month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential JY</td>
<td>$26.00 a month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Effective JANUARY 2012**

Because of the Local’s financial situation, Local 131 is no longer able to subsidize the monthly dues for disabled members and retired members age 65 or older.

- DISABLED MEMBERS will resume paying monthly dues as per the chart above for active members.
- RETIRED MEMBERS AGE 65 OR OLDER will resume paying dues at reduced rates per the chart below.

The UA determined these rates based on when the member reached age 65.

- PRIOR to Jan 1, 2002: $15.00 a month
- Jan 1, 2002 to Dec 31, 2006: $19.00 a month
- AFTER Dec 31, 2006: $20.00 a month

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Four handsome men sat down to play. They played all night ‘til break of day. They played for gold and not for fun, With separate scores for everyone. When time had come to square accounts, They all had made quite fair amounts. This paradox can you explain? If no one lost, how could all gain?