The mid-term elections are finally over, although the outcome was far from what we had hoped we will be reaching out to our new representatives to try to keep working families, wages and benefits a priority in any new legislation that may be forth coming. I want to thank the members who volunteered to do phone banks walks and turned out for visibility, and thanks to everyone for taking the time to get out and vote only thru our vote, do you have a voice in the process.

Just like in the election process, you have a voice and vote here in your own local union, yet over the past few years fewer and fewer members have shown up to take part. On a monthly basis a handful of members attending the meeting have been making decisions for the entire membership. At the last meeting we had to postpone the meeting 5 minutes to wait for a 15th person to show up to make the quorum. I am asking that members take the time once a month to come and participate in their local union, it is a chance to see other members, hear what is happening both locally and throughout the United Association, and have a part in the future of the organization. I also would like to ask members to consider getting involved in teaching our apprentices and our journeyman training programs. Our industry is constantly evolving as new products and materials have been introduced, and there is a need for instructors who have been exposed to these things as well as instructors who have expertise in many different aspects of the trade. We market our members as the best skilled and best trained in the industry. For us to continue to be the best trained we need our members to give back to the organization and help train the journeymen of the future.

The Corner Office
David A. Pelletier / Business Manager

Work over the past month has held up very well with all of the outages we have had to man locally at Bow, Newington Energy and Newington Station. Work on the road continues to be slow with the AMD Plant in Malta NY expecting to hire travelers by the end of the year. We currently have members working on the road in NY, IL, TN, AL, AZ and OH. We currently have:
*155 working for local contractors
*27 working locally for out of town contractors
*29 working on the road
*29 members out of work

The O'Connor outage at Bow finished on 11/3 with the tie in of the temporary auxiliary boiler with no members left on site. We have 11 members at Newington Station the week of 11/1 for a 1 week 40 hour outage that hopefully goes well as we have not been in that plant in quite some time.

Federal Piping in Freedom has hired 1 new apprentice for work in the north country on residential heating systems.

NPI is hiring 4 welders with UA21 welding certs for the Bow scrubber project that should go to the end of the year on 40 hours.

RTH seems to be holding their own with work in the PNSY and Pease Tradeport.

MJ Electric is still on hold with I&C packages at Bow due to instrument questions not answered as of yet. They do intend on hiring 2 instrument fitters as soon as the packages are completed.

AZCO was awarded another stainless steel ammonia package at Bow that should keep them going for the next few months.

Work for the near future looks to be slowing down for the winter. We do have a 30 outage scheduled at Seabrook Station on 4/1 with hiring usually starting in mid February. All other projects appear to be pushed out into late spring as of this date.

I would like to wish every member and their families a Happy Holiday season.
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 2011:

FEB 7, MAY 2, AUG 1, NOV 7

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!

Office Bits & Bytes

Mo Demers / Office Administrator

I don’t know about you, but I HATE gift cards!!! I hate giving them and I hate getting them!!

Once the Christmas spirit strikes me (which is absolutely, positively NOT before Thanksgiving!), I truly enjoy the planning, thinking, hunting that goes into figuring out just the right gift that will bring glee to the eye of the one receiving it. Just figuring out what’s “hot” and what’s not for the grandkids is an adventure. There’s nothing worse than having your 10-year-old grandson open your gift and roll his eyes when he sees the video game that he mastered 8 months ago or your granddaughter sighing (loudly) when she pulls out the furry boots that are NOT the right brand name and sooooooo “last year!”

Many of us face this dilemma each year and many have fallen into the safety net of “The Gift Card.” Now, even THIS might be a good idea, IF you search out the receiver’s likes and dislikes and purchase a card that fits. A card to EMS is way off base for the “princess”. One for Barnes & Noble will go over like a lead balloon with the “jock”.

So you may be tempted to just get the generic, one-size-fits-all, VISA GIFT CARD!! They work anywhere for anything! How thoughtless is that!?!!? They’re only one step away from cash. Of course cash is OK for the company Secret Santa, or the babysitter. But your kids? Grandkids? Parents? Whenever I get one, I kinda feel like I wasn’t worth the trouble. The trouble to know; to understand; to care about . . . The trouble to take the time, the effort, the gas . . .

My fondest memories of Christmases past have been all about the trouble. The saving, the shopping, the buying, the wrapping, the packing, the shipping. Because it was always wrapped up with the baking, the eating, the caroling, the waiting.

Gift cards are such a let-down! They’re no trouble at all.
© Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. “  
~ Norman Vincent Peale

The Local Union 131 Apprentices  
Annual Christmas Food Drive

Donations accepted at the union hall office  
Monday – Friday * 7 am – 4 pm  
Until Dec 10th.

The 3 stages of man:  
1) He believes in Santa Claus.  
2) He doesn’t believe in Santa Claus.  
3) He is Santa Claus.

Two convicts are locked in a cell.  
There is an unbarred window high up in the wall.  
No matter if they stand on the bed or one on top of the other, 
you can’t reach the window to get out.  
At first they decide to tunnel out.  
However, they give up escaping that way because it will take too long.  
Finally one of the convicts figures out how to escape from the cell.  
What is his plan?

Local Union 131  
Retirees Association  

NEXt  
Quarterly Notified  
Union Meeting  
Wed, Dec 8, 2010

Attendance at the November Meeting: Paul Scarlett, Alan Gray, Roland Hill, Bob Drew, Steve Labore, Jimmy Jenkins, John Trisciani, Gloria Bouchard, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Robertson, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mulvey, Richard Zannini, Jerry Maynard, Jimmy Griffin

The next meeting will be December 14th, 10:00 am.

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

Items of Interest / Upcoming Meetings

December 14  
* Guest Speaker – Kathy Clements, “Changes in Medicare & Social Security”  
Christmas Raffle - - 1 large potted poinsettia plant.

Retiree 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!)

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