At the July Trustee meeting we received a report from our actuary, Segal Company on the current status of reserves in the Health and Welfare Fund. The fund has had some trying times in the past few years. We have gone from a fund with very low out-of-pocket expenses to being 6 months in the red. We’ve had to take major steps: benefit reductions, increased co-pays and deductibles, co-insurance and borrowing money from the Target Fund to pay medical bills. As a result of these changes to benefits and with increased contributions, the fund has turned around and gained 17 months of reserve to put us at 11 months reserve currently, as well as pay off the outstanding balance of the loan. The recommended reserve levels for the fund are 12 to 18 months. It has taken almost 4 years to reach this point. With continued employment and relatively healthy participants we should be within our required reserve levels in the near future.

Election activity is really starting to heat up with the AFL-CIO Labor 2008 campaign in full swing. Members are encouraged to attend the coordinators meeting and other events as they are posted on our website. This election is as important to the future of organized labor as any in recent history. We need to elect labor-friendly people, stop the assault on labor unions and return working people to the middle class in this country. We will be looking for people to volunteer for phone banks and labor walks in the coming months. Please take the time to help out and make a difference in this important election year.

The Scrubber project at Merrimack Station has been awarded to Washington Group and will be constructed under the National Maintenance Agreement. With this award, 99% of the project will be constructed using union craftsmen and women. PSNH has kept small parts of the overall project separate to be done by in house people or specialty firms. The project is scheduled to start in the spring of 2009.

We still have tickets available for the Labor Day Breakfast in Manchester. The breakfast is from 9:00 am to noon and is a chance to meet other union members and celebrate the holiday unions brought you.
Please remember that this office will NOT give out private information about you. That includes your address, your phone number or where you work. We cannot be held accountable for outside sources seeking this information. We can’t know if the inquiry is legitimate or criminal.

**Office Bits & Bytes**

Mo Demers / Office Administrator

Speaking of addresses and phone numbers: It is extremely important that you notify this office when you move. Filling out the mail forwarding card at the post office IS NOT ENOUGH. All that does is get any mail that is sent to your old address forwarded to the new one. But there’s a time limit. Once that expires, mail sent to the old address gets returned to the sender as undeliverable. The post office DOES NOT inform everyone on the planet what your new address is. YOU have to do that. Once you tell us here at the local union office, we make sure that Insurance Programmers, the United Association and the National Pension office all get the new address. We are still trying to capture e-mail addresses from all our members. Occasionally we need to get information out in a hurry. E-mail is the quickest way. If you want to get this newsletter via e-mail and save a tree, please register on the local website - **www.ualu131.org**

So for 8 days in August MY address will be:

My Tent - Somewhere Along The Side of The Trail
Sierra Nevada Mountains, CA

The next hiking adventure! I will be joining 7 friends for my 50th birthday on a backpacking trip that will take us to the summit of Mt. Whitney, the highest in the contiguous United States! 14,505 feet! But don’t tell anyone where I am, OK? I’m on the lam. The cops are looking for me. Rumor has it if I’m caught anywhere near the union hall on August 20th, they will come and drag me off to jail! Should that happen (which it most surely will) I’ll need bail money! I’m told the bail for the charges against me, “generosity” and “supporting a worthy cause” (Muscular Dystrophy) varies, but the more I can offer the judge, the better my chances of getting out and back to my desk!

Can you help me? I’m going to try to have at least $800 to offer the authorities, but I’m sure if I grease their palms with more, they’ll gladly take it!

If you can help me out, come by the office. I’ll have a collection jar (ingeniously disguised as a charity collection jar) at the window. Cash or checks are OK. Write checks to the “Muscular Dystrophy Association” or just “MDA” (clever cover – huh! Mo Demers Aid - MDA). If you mail in your help, be sure to mark “MDA” on the envelope. Thanks for bailing me out!
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.

What is the only city in the world that exists in one country but on two continents?

MEMBER NEWS

Condolescences to Family & Friends of:

Brother Paul Boulanger
killed in a motorcycle accident July 12th

Brother James Rowan
passed away July 15th after a long illness

(check website www.ualu131.org for obituaries)

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

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

REDUCE / REUSE / RECYCLE
- Glass –

Glass is one of the easiest materials to recycle.

It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it can be recycled an infinite amount of times.

Recycled glass can return to the marketplace in as little as 30 days.

You cannot recycle all glass products. Light bulbs, ceramics, glass mirrors, windowpanes, and dishes are not made with the same materials as glass jars and bottles, so they should not be mixed in with glass recyclables. Still, it’s the bottles and jars that we throw away every day, not the light bulbs and dishes that make up most of our trash.

I would like to thank the Officers of Local 131 for all they do to keep the union running smoothly as well as all the time and effort they put into our social functions. Dave Pelletier and Steve Lachance always express gratitude to other volunteers but never take any credit themselves. Thanks, guys!