The Corner Office
David A. Pelletier / Business Manager

I would like to start off by thanking Jim Griffin and all the members who helped make the summer outing a success. It was a beautiful day, and as always there was plenty of good food and a good time was had by all.

We are currently full swing into the midterm elections. The primary battles are over and the campaigns are heating up. The general election is Nov. 4th. The AFL-CIO held the legislative conference on September 13th and has distributed the list of endorsed candidates for the November election. The list is now available on the LU131 website. I know you have heard it before, but this election is crucial for our future as organized labor and working families. I urge you to check out the list of endorsed candidates, do some research on their positions that affect unions and working families, and please get out to vote on Nov. 4th.

If anyone is interested, the AFL-CIO is hosting labor walks every weekend between now and the election to get out the word on the importance of the election and mobilize union members to get out and vote. The walks are approximately 3 hours and all contacts made are with fellow union members, it is a good opportunity to help support our candidates. Contact us here at the hall if you would like to participate.

We recently had a meeting with ORBIS; they have won a few short term contracts at the Navy Yard and are bidding on everything that is coming out. Recently they won a short term rigging contract and a short term electrical contract. Both contracts went 3 months for 12 guys. They had manpower estimates from the navy showing a need for pipefitters in the first quarter of next year and are hoping to bid on providing them as soon as possible. As painful as it is to fill out the background paperwork, the only people eligible to work there when a contract is awarded will be those that have gone thru the process. Currently the navy is getting pipefitters through a contract with a group of federal contractors in Virginia, working through Senator Shaheen. ORBIS has been able to get the navy to look at local source labor rather than bringing up labor from the south.

This past weekend the local held our Bi-Annual Awards Breakfast. It was good to see the members receiving pins and certificates for 25-65 years of service. Thank you to Jim Griffin, Mo Demers and Steve Lachance for working to make the breakfast a success.

Manpower Hour
Steven D. Lachance / Business Agent

Work in the Local is extremely slow with most of the work finishing up and no new work awarded. Work on the road is strong with the fall outage cycle about to begin. We have members on the road in MA, NY, SC, KY, IO, MN, FL, and WA.

We currently have;
* 110 working for local contractors
* 14 working locally for out of town contractors
* 64 members working on the road
* 36 members out of work

Federal Piping is looking for 1 full-time Residential Boiler Heating Service Mechanic who lives in the North Country for long term employment. Any interested candidates are encouraged to call me ASAP.

Honeywell has a request for 2 Journeymen HVACR Service Techs. Please contact me ASAP with resume.

O’Connor Constructors has a 2-week outage at Newington Station to replace and repair some 8” & 6” oil lines. This needs to be completed by October 6. They plan to hire 6 members for that work.

Independent Mechanical out of Boston was awarded an ammonia cooling job at AG in Pembroke. To date they have hired 2 welders and 1 apprentice to help them complete that project by the end of November.

Day & Zimmermann at Seabrook Station is hoping to hire some members in mid-November for the 2015 fall outage pre-fab. They currently anticipate the hiring of 6-18 members for the pre-outage work that will extend right up to the outage in October 2015.

ORBIS at the PNSY is hoping to put fitters on this year. Please see Dave Pelletier if you have not completed your background check for that work. The background is good for 10 years once you are approved.

NPI & RTH are holding their own as most of the work they have wraps up. Work in Plymouth & PNSY will hopefully maintain their workforce as they pursue other projects.

B&W in the Berlin Biomass Plant is in the final stretch of turnover and expects to be complete by the end of 2014. We currently have 31 members working for LU773 at the NY Micro Chip Plant as they continue to hire every M/W/F working 6-10s. This is a long term job that should continue to hire for the foreseeable future.

Work in Boston has been slower than anticipated with only a few calls for licensed plumbers and UA Certified welders have been the only calls to date.
At the risk of repeating myself, I need to tell you a story.

As many of you may know, I have a large family. I have 5 sons, 13 grand-kids and 2 great-grand-kids (with a 3rd due in December!) At present, only two of our five sons are married, but they all have been at one time and all of them have kids of their own. One of my divorced sons got 100% custody of his 3 boys and his ex-wife moved out of state. Although she has visitation, my son is now a 50 year old single, self-employed father of three teenage boys. Yikes!

Fortunately, all his brothers live near by, so he has a support network, but still, at the end of the day, he is the sole provider in his household.

On Wednesday, Sept 17th he experienced a massive heart attack. He received CPR for 45 minutes before they got his pulse back. The cause was a blocked artery in the heart. The doctors call this particular type of blockage "the widow-maker." Of all who have it and have a heart attack as a result, only 20% survive. And only 5% come out undamaged (i.e. no brain damage from loss of oxygen or paralysis from a subsequent stroke). For 36 hours we waited to learn if he would even wake up. During those 36 hours the family gathered and started to prepare: What if he's 100% disabled? What if he can't talk? What if he dies? What if? What if? What if???

Who knows where his will is? Does he have a will? Who will take the kids? Where does he want to be buried? Does he want to be cremated? Who knows??

Since he's been divorced for over 10 years, the ex-wife had no clue. He was only 40 then. They had never talked about it. NOW he has no wife that would/could/should know what he wants and make decisions for him. As his parents, it would fall to us if the worst happened and we had no idea either. Luckily for us, OUR story has a happy ending. Our son is in the 5% that comes out fine. But what if he wasn't?

Please let this be a reminder that it is never too soon and you are never too young to prepare your family for what you want. Get your will, power-of-attorney for health care, living will done. NOW!! You won't be stuck with it. You can change it any time you want. But don't put your family in the awful position of not knowing. Tell them. Before it's too late. What if this had been you? Hmmm? What if?
Union Meeting
October 8, 2014

The strongest bond of human sympathy outside the family relation should be one uniting working people of all nations and tongues and kindreds.

- Abraham Lincoln

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

**SAVE THE DATE!**
The 2014 Local 131 Children's Christmas Party
Sunday December 7th

Condolences go out to Brothers Ken Wheeler, JR and George Bell, both of whom lost their fathers recently.

**Smart Phone "AutoCorrect" Text Bloopers**

"Pre-School" Test for you:
Which way is the bus above traveling... toward the left or the right?

Can't make up your mind? Look carefully at the picture again. Pre-school children all over the United States were shown this puzzle, and 90% of them gave the correct answer!