This week the Democratic National Convention is being held in Denver. After this and the upcoming Republican Convention, the race for the White House will be in full swing. The UA has come out to fully endorse the Obama/Biden team in their bid for the Presidency.

General President Hite and the UA Executive Board gave their endorsement to Senator Obama in early January during the primary season. General President Hite has a long standing working relationship with Senator Obama and believes an Obama Presidency will be a win for all working Americans. Obama has solicited the views of the General President on issues that affect our members like health care and pension protection. He backs a policy of investing in American infrastructure, constructing new power plants, new refineries and new chemical plants. He backs a responsible nuclear program with the construction of new nuclear power plants and a plan for storing radioactive waste. Senator Obama has made it clear that he believes in unions. He has publicly stated that unions are good for America and that he believes in the right of workers to organize a union in their work place. If a majority of workers sign union authorization cards, they should be able to be represented and bargain for a first contract without having to wait out the long election process.

We all know that this election is important to the country and the labor movement. We have endured 7½ years of an anti-union, anti-worker administration. While the average worker has barely kept up with inflation, the top 1% of this country has seen their wealth grow at a staggering rate. Corporations have reaped unimaginable profits as we struggle to pay our bills. We need an administration that recognizes the contributions working men and women make on a daily basis to this country; a President who believes the American worker deserves an opportunity to make good wages, obtain benefits and retire with dignity. I ask that you look at the issues and look at the records of the two candidates running for President. I believe that Senator Obama is the right person for the job, and I ask that you join President Hite and the UA in supporting Barack Obama.

Work in the area continues to be slow with local contractors barely holding their own. Work on the road has picked up in the Local 4 / Worcester area with the construction of the Bristol Myers Squibb plant in Devens, Massachusetts. We currently have members working on the road in MA, NJ, MD, SC, OH, WI, MN, MO, AZ, NV and WA.

We currently have:
* 152 members working for local contractors
* 18 members working locally for out-of-town contractors
* 59 members on the road
* 18 members out of work

O’Connor has a 30-day outage scheduled for Merrimack Station in Bow on September 9th, working 6/10s. Early projections have them hiring 4 to 8 members to go along with the 5 members that are already on site.

We have a meeting scheduled with the Washington Group on September 30th for a pre-job brief regarding the Bow Scrubber Project which is scheduled to start in April of 2009 pending no delays.

We had our post-outage meeting at the Laborers 976 Hall in Portsmouth on August 21st with FPL and Williams Plant Services. They commended all the Building Trades for a job well done on ORO11 and look forward to working with us again in the fall outage of 2009.

Work for RTH at the PNSY continues to be delayed with a new start date of October or November on the Dry Dock work that was originally scheduled for May. RTH has hired 1 plumber for work in Nashua.

NPI has hired 3 fitters over the past month for work on the UNH Steam Tunnel job.

Johnson Controls hired 1 Service Journeyman along with a new Apprentice to complete their service crew.

Williams Plant Services at Seabrook Station has hired 1 welder for general plant maintenance work.

Poirier & Springer hired 1 fitter to help complete the project they have in Bedford by October.
**JOURNEYMAN TRAINING:**

- **UA Foreman Training Session:** This is a forty (40) hour class
  - **September:** 23, 25 & 30
  - **October:** 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 & 30
  - 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
  - Book fee: $65.00 due at the first class.
  - RSVP requested by September 15th.
  - Questions should be directed to Kim Trisciani 603-669-7516 or 603-486-9951

**Gas Fitter Continuing Education:** Throughout the year we will be scheduling vendors for presentations and there will be NFPA 54 Gas Code seminars that will satisfy the State of NH Gas Licensing requirements. Please check the Local 131 website and this newsletter for upcoming events!

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**APPRENTICE CLASSROOM TRAINING:**

Apprentice classroom training for the 2008/2009 academic year will start on Tuesday, September 9th with Orientation starting at 6 pm.

**ALL APPRENTICES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND!**

We have hired on several new apprentices since May and those individuals will be sworn in at the September 10th quarterly meeting.

Your continued support in mentoring our apprentices is appreciated. These individuals are the FUTURE of our organization. It is they who will allow us to prosper!

**PLUMBING SEMINAR:**

November 10th: 6 pm. Membership card with dues paid through August and current NH Plumbing License required. IPC 2006 code books are available. Cost: $65.

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**Free Attorney’s Advice - Prevent ID Theft!**

Make a copy for your files.
If it happens to you, you’ll be glad you did!

1. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they won’t know if you sign your checks with your initials or your first name, but your bank will know.
2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put “PHOTO ID REQUIRED”.
3. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, do not put the complete account number on the “For” or “Memo” line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the numbers, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won’t have access to it.
4. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a P.O Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a P.O. Box, use your work address. NEVER have your Social Security number printed on your checks.
5. Photocopy the entire contents of your wallet. Copy both sides of every license, credit card, etc. You will have a record of what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

Identity theft is a real threat. Here’s some critical information to limit the damage if it happens to you!

Take action IMMEDIATELY. Your financial life can be destroyed in a matter of hours!

1. **Contact your credit cards immediately.** The key is having the toll free numbers and your account numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them. (number 5 above)
2. **File a police report immediately** in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation.
3. **Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately** (see below) to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Here are the numbers you always need to contact if your wallet, etc., has been stolen:

1.) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
3.) Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289
4.) Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271
With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed.

They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in men, than any other association of men.

- Clarence Darrow

Kevin's mother has three children. The first was called Alpha, the second was called Beta. What was the name of the third?

REDUCE / REUSE / RECYCLE

Aluminum

Environmental Impacts of Aluminum Production

The beverage and aluminum industries tout the can as “the most recyclable” package in America. But recyclable doesn’t necessarily mean recycled. More than half of the 100 billion cans sold in the U.S. last year were land-filled or incinerated. A similar amount was not recycled in other countries, for a global total of about 1.5 million tons of wasted cans. These trashed cans that are not returned into the cycle of use must be replaced with new cans made entirely from virgin materials, and that is where the environmental damage occurs.

Pollution:
1 ton of aluminum cans produces
5 tons of caustic waste

Each ton of aluminum cans requires 5 tons of bauxite ore to be strip-mined, crushed, washed, and refined into alumina before it is smelted, creating about 5 tons of caustic red mud residue which can seep into surface and groundwater. People and animals have suffered from the effects of bauxite mining. Lakes of corrosive mud, a byproduct of alumina refining, cause permanent harm to the surrounding ecosystems as well as a number of diseases, including Alzheimer’s disease and cancer in humans.

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.