As the state legislature starts its new session, the “Right to Workers” are back in New Hampshire to push their agenda. Although the final bills have yet to be drafted the sense is we will see a “Right to Work” bill in some fashion in both houses this coming year. We will be asking our membership to contact their respective representatives and senators and ask them to support organized labor in New Hampshire.

The elections in Manchester are November 8, 2005. We have included a list of the endorsed candidates from the Manchester Central Labor Council AFL-CIO in the newsletter. Please remember to take the time to vote in your local elections. Your vote does make a difference.

Kim mentions in her article the need for our members to continually seek training to meet the changing needs of the industry. This has become a major issue in the past year or so. Increasingly calls are coming in that specify a specific UA certification and more often than not an OSHA 10 card. Members should take advantage of the training opportunities available. Any certification you have will make you more marketable and could be the difference between unemployment and the next job opportunity.

The success of the local is dependent on our members being the most skilled and productive workforce available.
It is important that we the members of Local 131 remember OUR basic vision! "Our strength is in numbers of QUALITY PEOPLE." Education is the key. The training needs within the piping industry are in a constant state of change. Many of the technical skills needed in both the construction and service parts of the mechanical trades are so involved that members must continue their training throughout their careers.

The Local 131 Training facility operates an ACCREDITED apprentice program. A five-year apprenticeship receives 32 college credits. By taking two additional on-line classes per year through the UA Training Program at a reduced rate of $75 per credit, apprentices can graduate with an Associates degree in general studies! Wow, not only a skill that no one can take away but achieving a college degree as well!

Local 131 currently has four certified instructors on staff. Five more instructors are working towards their certification. It is through the dedication and determination of our members who volunteer to teach in our training program that makes the Local 131 Training program successful.

Training our members is more important now than any other time. We must be the best-trained craftspeople available. It is important that we know of every new development in our industry. In order to improve the economy we need a skilled workforce!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND COOPERATION!

Let me start by expressing my personal condolences to those who have lost loved ones in the recent past. When we have a death in the family, there are a million things that need to be done almost immediately. Although it is overwhelming, it is also a blessing that we are kept SO busy for the first several days that we don’t have the time to feel. It is numbing and makes it possible to hold up under the grief. But when it’s time to move on, there are still many, many other details of our lives that need to be changed or modified. Contacting the local union office is one of those items on the “B” list of things that need to get done.

This office is the ONE contact you MUST make to cover all the various changes that need to be made. Whenever you have a life change of this type (death, birth, divorce, etc...) it affects a variety of things. It is very important that you contact us with this information so that we can get the needed forms taken care of and forward the information to all the various offices (insurance, pension, etc.)

It is also important that you contact us DIRECTLY with address changes. You must realize that filling out a change of address card at the post office only instructs them to forward mail with your old address on it. This only last for a few months. Once the time runs out, the post office starts sending things back. If you do not give us your new address, when the post office starts sending things back to us, we have no way of knowing where to start sending your mail. And new addresses usually mean new phone numbers! If you don’t give us that, we can’t even call you and ask for your address!!

Please remember to keep us informed. It only helps us serve you better!
Manchester Central Labor Council
Endorsed Aldermanic Candidates
Election 11/08/2005

Ward 1  Mark Roy
Ward 3  Pat Long
Ward 4  Jerome Duval
Ward 6  Paul Porter
Ward 7  Bill Shea
Ward 8  Betsi DeVries
Ward 10  George Smith
Ward 11  Hank Thibault
At Large  Dan O’Neal
Mayor  Bob Baines

“...trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization that ever existed.”
-Clarence Darrow

MEMBER NEWS

Condolences

To Dan Turgeon on the loss of his father Sept 20, 2005

To the family and friends of Albert Sante, who passed away on Sept 19, 2005

Take the number of your fingers multiplied by the number of your toes divided by one-half and add it to the number of months in a year. What is the total?
Solution at bottom of page
(Look in the ice cube!)