The Legislative season is just starting to heat up in Concord. Representatives are beginning to file their bill requests by name, while they work out the language to be submitted in the final bill. The AFL-CIO and Building Trades are working on a request for a State Prevailing Wage Bill. We are working with members of the House to sponsor and introduce the bill. All House bill requests were due by Sept. 27 at 4pm, so we should know soon what to watch in the House. On the Senate side they have until Oct 26th to file legislation.

We do know that a gambling bill will be introduced again this session. The Gaming Regulation and Oversight Committee have been meeting and will file a report of regulation by Dec 15th.

The AFL-CIO and Building Trades have had a number of meetings with state officials in an effort to figure out how federal money comes into the state and is spent on state construction without Davis-Bacon provisions. It has been very frustrating to try to nail down which state construction projects have federal money and therefore require the prevailing wage. As far as we can tell so far it looks like money is granted to state departments and they in turn look to the Department of Administrative Services to solicit bids for construction. We are trying to connect the dots and see why Administrative Services is not getting the source of the money. We will continue to push for transparency.

We spent a lot of time on the mechanical licensing bill the past few years. The bill was passed and signed into law. As of this time the seven members of the board have been confirmed. The first board meeting will be Oct 16th. The Mechanical License will be issued to plumbers and gas fitters with endorsements for master, journeyman and apprentice plumbers and endorsements for gas licensing.

Work in the State of NH is stagnant with no new hiring for projects in the near future. We have had a very good year so far but the remainder of the year looks to be tight. Work on the road is slow with calls for Malta NY coming in slowly.

We currently have members working on the road in MA, VT, NY, PA, TN, FL, MN, TX and AZ. We currently have:
* 144 working for local contractors
* 75 working locally for out of town contractors
* 20 members working on the road
* 34 members out of work

JS Thomas has finished up in Rochester on the Safran Job and wanted to thank us for the exceptional manpower we provided them. They look forward to doing more projects with us should the opportunity arise.

NPI has maintained status quo of manpower with the exception of the Cotton Mill Apartments in Nashua that is under the Residential Agreement that hire a few plumbers.

RTH has been very busy at the PNSY but they do not project any new hires as they are just trying to hang on to the members they currently have working for them.

B&W at the Berlin Biomass Plant is on the downside of their project as they start to flush and commission systems every day. They had maxed out at about 130 members on that site in May & June and now are currently at 70 with layoffs coming on a weekly basis until the owner control takes place in December 2013.

The change of Contractor at Seabrook Station was completed on 8/22/13 from CB&I to Day & Zimmermann with all 6 fitters rolling over on 8/23/13 to continue to work on the Outage prefab and Locker room renovation. The next outage is scheduled for April 2014.

O’Connor has a 5 week outage at Bow on 40 hours that has hired 2 members for that work.
I have a grand-daughter getting married this spring. She’s the first. But as thrilled as I am, I’m already tired of it! I’ve already received two “save-the-date” announcements and an invitation to a Jack & Jill (with registry info included). The wedding is going to be in Florida, on a cruise ship. And everyone invited to the wedding is invited to go on the cruise! Yippy! Who’s paying for that? Now, don’t get me wrong — it’s THEIR day and THEIR memory and I don’t care if they want to get married on top of a volcano! But not everyone can afford to travel all the way to Florida to go to a wedding. Or take a cruise. But, I can’t miss my girl getting married, so I’ll figure out how to at least get to the wedding. Of course I hope she realizes this will seriously cut into available funds for the wedding gift!

One person who sadly won’t make it to the wedding is my mother-in-law, her great-grandmother. She passed away the last day of September. A month ago she had a fall and landed right on her butt. The result? Two hairline fractures on either side of her pelvis. Not life-threatening, but awful painful. So she went to rehab at a nursing home. She was making great progress when she developed some digestive distress. They sent her to the hospital for tests and 2 days later she was gone. Turns out she had a massive cancerous ulcer that had been symptomless until it perforated. No one knew, not even her. We just barely had time to gather family. How lucky we are this happened at the nursing home and not home alone.

This summer we celebrated her 100th birthday! She was still living independently in a senior apartment complex (not assisted living, just 55 or older tenants). She was a very wise lady. When she was 75 and stilling driving, she approached her son and me and handed over her car keys! She didn’t want to put us in the position of having to “take” them away from her someday. She was still spry and could have driven another 10 years, but she decided it was time. Around the same time, she insisted we take some of her savings and go prepay her funeral. She wanted to have a say in things and didn’t want us to be burdened with it when the time came. Then she took us to the bank and made me a co-owner of her meager bank accounts (long enough ago that she wouldn’t be accused of “hiding” funds by giving them away as nursing home living approached). And finally, we prepared her will, her living will, her health care directives, and she gave us power of attorney for finances and health care. All the ducks were all lined up. So this past week we knew exactly what to do. We knew what she wanted. No surprises and no worries. No questions and no fights. Gosh, I loved my mother-in-law! She has inspired me to do the same for my kids.

I know I have preached about this before, but I now have experienced first-hand just how important this is. If you haven’t thought about these issues, you’re never too old (or too young) to start. Talk to your family and put it in writing! The State of New Hampshire has a packet of templates that are legal in NH that you can use for health care. They are “fill-in-the-blank” forms that walk you through all the questions that need to be answered. We have copies here at the Local Union office. And there are lots of templates for regular wills and basic power-of-attorney directives. Just Google it. Or better yet: talk to a lawyer. But do it! Today!
George and Ralph went to the movies. There are two ticket prices: $5.00 (admission only) and $8.00 (admission + popcorn). George gave the cashier a $10.00 bill. "Which type of ticket do you want, sir?" the cashier asked. "Popcorn, please." George replied. The cashier gave him his ticket and his change.

The cashier then turned to Ralph. Ralph gave the cashier $10.00 and without asking, the cashier gave him an $8.00 ticket and $2.00 change.

Why didn’t the cashier ask Ralph which ticket he wanted?

George gave the cashier TWO $5.00 bills. If he had wanted a $5.00 ticket, he would have only given the cashier one.

There’s so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, that it doesn’t behoove any of us to talk about the rest of us. - Unknown

The world’s forests are being destroyed at the rate of 1 acre per second. Every 16 minutes, a forest the size of New York’s Central Park is destroyed. Every day, a forest the size of Philadelphia (74,000 acres) is lost, and every year, an area the size of Pennsylvania (27 million acres) is ruined.

The Bulletin Board

Union Meeting
November 13, 2012

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In Memory

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July 11, 2013

James Doherty
July 30, 2013

Nickey Zela
September 20, 2013

Leslie Reed
September 20, 2013

Norman Dunbar
September 30, 2013

Burton MacIver
October 6, 2013

Richard Fuller
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