As I write this newsletter we are just 13 days away from one of the most important elections in our lifetimes. We have an opportunity this election to change the direction of the country. With Barack Obama, Jeanne Shaheen, Paul Hodes and Carol Shea-Porter we can start investing in the infrastructure of this country creating millions of jobs to stimulate the economy here in the USA. We can start investing in the energies of the future (clean coal, nuclear, wind, solar and natural gas) to move us away from foreign oil. We will have a government that rewards companies that invest here in the US rather than reward companies that ship jobs overseas. We will have a government that fights for the middle class, the people that made America the great country that it is. People like you and I that go to work everyday and ask for nothing more than decent wages and benefits so we can care for our families. Benefits like affordable healthcare and secure pensions so we can retire with dignity.

Over the last eight years we have seen our very way of life come under attack. We have seen wages stagnate while the cost of living continues to climb. Health care costs have skyrocketed and the government has allowed major corporations to walk away from pension obligations, then passed legislation that put nearly impossible mandates for funding and funding timelines on multi-employer pensions like ours. All the while the richest one percent of the population has enjoyed record profits and record tax breaks. It is our time to take back this country.

In addition to last months list of endorsed candidates (available on the LU131 website) I want to mention our friend Representative Rip Holden from Goffstown. Rip has always supported us in Concord.

How you vote is a personal decision, but you and your family deserve leaders in Government who will fight for working family issues. We believe that our endorsed candidates will work everyday on your behalf.

Work in the area is slow with the exception of two outages at Bow and Schiller Stations. Local contractors are slowing down and struggling to get work. Work on the road is still strong with the BMS job in Devens MA and the VY Nuclear Outage in VT. We currently have members on the road in MA, VT, MD, NJ, DC, MO, MN, FL, NV, AZ, SC, and WA.

We currently have:
* 131 members working locally for local contractors
* 27 members working locally for out-of-town contractors
* 75 members on the road
* 12 members out of work

O’Connor is approximately 3/4 of the way through their outages at both Bow and Schiller Stations and all appears to be going well for them. We actually had to bring in travelers for the Schiller outage to complete the manpower call on 10/15.

We met with the Washington Group URS on September 30th for a pre-job on the Bow Scrubber Project. It appears that all the ducks are in a row for an April 2009 start. At this time the scope that includes the major mechanical portion of work will begin in November 2009. The project is scheduled to peak out in July of 2010 with a total craft-manpower of 275. Early projections show pipfitters peaking at about 45 members. The project has a projected completion date of December 2011.

NPI is looking for a stainless steel brewery welder for AB in Merrimack which should be good until the end of the year.

RTH will be looking for a couple of members for work in Manchester and the PNSY that will go through the end of the year.

I just want to remind everyone how important it is to get out and VOTE this November 4th for Barack Obama, Jeanne Shaheen, Carol Shea-Porter, and Paul Hodes. Our country is at a crossroad and we need leadership that will help working families.
Gas Fitter Licensing:
Existing Technician Program ends January 1, 2009. Existing Technician applications must be submitted to the NH State Fire Marshal’s before the close of business on December 31, 2008. Any applications submitted after that date will require proof of completion from an approved training course. Fire Marshal’s phone: 603-223-4289.

NFPA 54 Code Seminars:
Seminars will be scheduled here at the Local 131 facility after January 1st. Code books are available and will be required for the seminars.

Plumbing Seminar:
November 3, 2008 starts promptly at 6:00 pm. Membership dues paid through November and a current NH Plumbing License are required for registration, which begins at 5:30 pm.

Certification Continuity:
For Welders and Medical Gas Installers. Each certified member is required to provide continuity every six (6) months per ASME IX.

Journey Training:
Future classes will be scheduled based on member interest. The following training classes are under consideration:
- UA Valve Re-certification: 10 – 12 hours with exam.
- UA Medical Gas Installer: 40 hours on code plus brazing & exam.
- UA R410-A Safety Training and Certification.
- UA Weld Test: 3 – 4 hours on a Saturday.

Please contact me if you would be interested in attending any of these courses. As always, YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE APPRECIATED.

I used to love Halloween. Halloween used to be a kids’ holiday driven by pure youthful exuberance and imagination. For one night you had the freedom to be anyone or anything you wanted. The sky was the limit. We spent weeks deciding what to “be” for Halloween. This was our chance to become our favorite TV superhero. You painted your Stingray bike black, wrapped pipe cleaners around the spokes and turned it into the Batmobile! You took scissors to bed sheets (to your Mom’s horror) and became a ghost howling down the street. You used up every inch of tin foil and duct tape in the house (to your father’s irritation) to make a spacesuit and “Bam” – you’re Will Robinson walking on an unknown planet light-years away. But the greatest part of Halloween (besides all the candy, of course) was the freedom to do it yourself! Picking the character or creature you wanted to be, figuring out how to make the costume, the treasure hunt to collect a hodgepodge of household items that you pulled together with safety pins and Elmer’s Glue. This was OUR night. These were OUR creations. We even got to go out in public (albeit after dark) wearing our prized creations. No one telling us we couldn’t go out “looking like that!” We paraded around our own neighborhoods. Alone! We knocked on doors of people we knew, absolutely convinced that they would have no idea who WE were. Our transformation was complete. Our creation a thing of beauty. This was OUR holiday. We were actually permitted to amass a pillow case full of candy. Goodies that should last us until Christmas, but usually only made it to Thanksgiving.

Later, as a parent of 5 boys, Halloween was still fun. Pretending to be scared by the little ghost that yelled “Boo!” when you open the door. Making veiled attempts to identify your neighbor’s son, to his delight at having fooled you. Laughing when you open the door to find no one there, but can hear the giggling in the bushes. You knew these kids and they knew you.

Now, my kids are all grown up and they have their own kids. But it’s not the same. Costumes are bought at Wal-Mart. “Trick-Or-Treat” is in the middle of the day or banned altogether. Mom and Dad escort the kids for safety. Greed pushes older kids to drive two towns over to “work the neighborhood” and extort from people they don’t know.

I miss the innocence. The power of imagination. The enthusiasm of self-expression. The chance to be something you’re not for just a little while.

I don’t know; I guess that’s why I was drawn into the theater as an adult. It’s like Halloween used to be. . . .without the candy.
“Never tell people how to do things.
Tell them what to do and they will
surprise you with their ingenuity.”
- George Patton

Can you find a seven letter word such that:
The first two letters are a man.
The first three letters are a woman.
The first four letters are a great man.
The whole is a great woman.

Member News

Condolences to family and friends of
Brother Ken Purington
Who passed away October 12th.

Sir, are you sure this is the right planet,
'cause I have my doubts about the people
here being ready for entrance into the
intergalactic community.

♦ The next Retiree’s monthly breakfast is Monday, Nov 03,
9:00 am at City Side Grill in Concord

** NOTICE! Next Meeting **
In observance of Veterans Day
WEDNESDAY Nov 12, 2008, 10:00 am.

** Attendance at October Retirees Meeting **
Jimmy Jenkins, George Fogg, John Trisciani, Lane McDuffee, Gloria Bouchard, Roland Hill, Paul Scarlett,
Jack & Mary Robinson, Bob Campano, Dick Lessard, Steve Labore and Jimmy Griffin.

- Thank you to everyone who has sent in their annual dues. If you haven’t done so yet, please take a
  moment. The dues are small but very important. They go right back to our retired members in the form of
cards and gifts for illness, bereavement, financial hardship, etc… If you are fortunate enough to still have
good health and are financially secure, please consider padding your dues payment with a small donation to
the cause.
- The invitation letters for the Christmas Party are on their way. The event is Sunday Dec. 7th at 11:00 am.
  Please RSVP! We wouldn’t want Santa to run out of presents just as he gets to your grandchild!
- The United Association and Local Union 131 are supporting Barack Obama in the upcoming presidential
election. The people in our government have tremendous impact on all our lives. No matter who you vote
for, the important message is to get out if you can and vote. It’s your right.