January 1, 2007 we will be reallocating $.45 from wages to the National Pension Fund. This $.45 will bring local 131 in line with the 25% contribution increase the National Pension has required of all participating locals. With the addition of the $.45 our new accrual rate will be $43.67 per credit year. As many of you know the National Pension Fund drastically cut the future accrual rates effective January 2005 by 75%, instituting a schedule B benefit rate of $14.49 per credit year. January 1, 2007 is the absolute last day contribution increases will be accepted to move to the new schedule D. Any local who has not increased contributions by 25% after January 1, 2007 will remain on schedule B. Reports from the National Pension Fund indicate nearly 100% participation in the 25% contribution increase. The goal of the plan is to return to the pre 2005 benefit levels.

In the November issue of the UA Journal, the UA presented its Standard for Excellence Policy. I have spoken to Steve Kelly, Assistant General President as well as Rick Terven at the Illinois Pipe Trades. Rick was instrumental in implementing the UA Standard of Excellence at the Dynergy Project in Local 160’s jurisdiction. Before implementing the Standard for Excellence, the Dynergy project was going sour for all involved. Owners, contractors and the members working on the project were frustrated.

(continued page 2)
Thank you to all of you who have supported our efforts for the holiday food drive. It has been a very successful project. All of the items will be brought to the NH Food Bank, which distributes to various agencies throughout the State of NH. These agencies in turn provide food to nearly 80,000 hungry individuals. It is a great honor for us to be able to assist in these efforts.

Reminder: There will be a Medical Gas and Valve Repair classes starting up in January so interested individuals should contact Kim ASAP!

The Orbital class will be rescheduled! More information will be available soon.

UA Weld Test Event: Would like to schedule for January if we have interested members!

Special Thanks to Darren Gallant & Chadd Lalime for taking care of the boiler wiring for the school!

Happy Holidays!

NNE District Council 10
Dennis E.E. Adams

I would like to remind all the members that we are our own best organizers. Organizing isn't a "one-hit" job. It's an ongoing task and its key to success is for everyone to be on board. Every day while we are out there working, whether it's as an apprentice, journeyman, foreman, supervisor, Training Coordinator, Business Agent, Business Manager, or International Representative, we need to be promoting our union. We need to be looking to recruit more skilled crafts people. You members that are out there everyday busting your humps and pulling wrenches are the ones who are in contact with the prospective members that we need and want. If you know someone that you feel would be an asset to our Locals let your Agent or Manager know. Remember, the product we try to sell to contractors and end users is a skilled labor force, YOU. You are our best resource. What you say, how you work, your attitude, and your professionalism; that is what sells us, the unionized workers. The best way to make all our lives better is to get more contractors, keep all our members working locally, and grow our membership with the best that are out there. This is an ongoing task. It is not an easy task or one that has immediate results, but you, our members, are our best resource to accomplish these goals. Our future really does depend on us all working together.

Faithfully yours,
Dennis

The Corner Office (continued from page 1)

After presenting the Standard of Excellence to the owner, contractors and local union membership, all parties took hard looks at what they needed to do to turn the project around. The local union membership voted overwhelmingly to implement the standard and with all three parties on board the job was turned around and a success for all parties. With the implementation of the UA Standard for Excellence the United Association will set itself apart from our non-union competitors. We will prove to owners and contractors that not only do we provide the best-trained craftsmen, we show up ready to work with the right attitude to get the job done in a timely manner. The UA Standard for Excellence is another tool we can use to set ourselves apart from the competition.

In closing I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. I would also like to thank Jim Griffin, Mo Demers, Cliff Moberg, Steve Lachance and his family for their work in making the Children’s Christmas Party a great success.

Brothers and Sisters,

We recently had International Representative Bill Turner attend Local 131's union meeting to explain the purpose and reason for the District Council. We had quite a lively discussion and I feel that Bill listened and heard the members' concerns and will work on them over the upcoming months. In my experiences with Bill Turner, when he says he'll look into something and try to fix it, he will. He is a man of his word.

I would like to remind all the members that we are our own best organizers. Organizing isn't a "one-hit" job. It's an ongoing task and its key to success is for everyone to be on board. Every day while we are out there working, whether it's as an apprentice, journeyman, foreman, supervisor, Training Coordinator, Business Agent, Business Manager, or International Representative, we need to be promoting our union. We need to be looking to recruit more skilled crafts people. You members that are out there everyday busting your humps and pulling wrenches are the ones who are in contact with the prospective members that we need and want. If you know someone that you feel would be an asset to our Locals let your Agent or Manager know. Remember, the product we try to sell to contractors and end users is a skilled labor force, YOU. You are our best resource. What you say, how you work, your attitude, and your professionalism; that is what sells us, the unionized workers. The best way to make all our lives better is to get more contractors, keep all our members working locally, and grow our membership with the best that are out there. This is an ongoing task. It is not an easy task or one that has immediate results, but you, our members, are our best resource to accomplish these goals. Our future really does depend on us all working together.
“You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man’s freedom. You can only be free if I am free.”

- Clarence Darrow

I finally did it! This year I finally got all my shopping done weeks before Christmas. Of course that was because I ran out of money. But, no matter. I finally have the chance to slow down; to listen – really listen – to the Christmas carols; to visit a few friends; to dig out and watch the old Christmas videos like Charlie Brown and Mr. Magoo; to wrap gifts at a leisurely pace (no gift bags this year!). This year I really remember the way Christmas and the holidays used to feel. The lights and the sounds. The warmth and the glow. It’s all coming back . . . Now if it would just snow!

Merry Christmas to you all!
Be happy and be safe.

Reminder - NEW Dues Rates
Effective January 2007

Journeymen ........... $ 31.00 a month
Apprentices & Tradesmen...... $ 21.00 a month

If you presently pay $28.00, there is NO CHANGE to your dues.
ALL others increased by $ 1.00
Regardless of rate,
ALL retirees must continue to pay dues until reaching age 65.

MEMBER NEWS

Ken Prunier’s condition, although stable, has reached the point where he has been placed on a waiting list for a lung transplant.
Anyone knowing address information on the following members, please call the union hall.
George E. Butler * James R. Page

It is a portable arcade. A hand-held amusement resource with no cartridges or batteries. Access games of speed, dexterity, memory, cunning. Produce magical effects or construct lofty towers. Some games can increase your income. What is it?

The Perfect Computer!

’Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the mall,
all the last minute shoppers prepare for the brawl . . .