Finally the elections have come and gone. What a victory for labor and working people throughout the country. We have elected representatives that will stand with working people and a president that knows the benefit that organized labor brings to working people’s lives. I want to thank the members who gave generously of their time to help with our Labor 2008 Campaign: Dan Coffey our local coordinator, Mark Neville, Bob Campbell, Greg Rogers, Rich Larkin, Jason Bouchard, Rich Lamarre, Mark Grant, Chuck Huot, Steve Porelle, Jim Griffin, Dennis Adams and Steve Lachance. Without their efforts our Labor 2008 program would not have been the success that it was. I also want to thank Mo for her help and patience during the months leading up to the election, as well as all of you who took the time to look at the issues and voice your concerns at the ballot box.

As I have mentioned at the last couple of meetings, we have been meeting with Dick Anagnost on the “Elliot at Rivers Edge Project.” We also are still in discussions with Laidlaw Group on the power plant proposal for the Berlin mill site. In fact, Laidlaw recently signed a memorandum of understanding to use the NH Building Trades and its affiliates on the project.

December’s meeting is a “Quarterly Notified Meeting.” We will be holding nominations for the Negotiating Committee, with elections at the January meeting. Next year will be a busy year. The Negotiating Committee will be dealing with the contract, which expires May 31. There will also be elections in June for a majority of the Local Union 131 officers.

I would like to take a moment to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season including what I hope will be a prosperous new year in 2009. Work in the local is really starting to slow down with contractors finishing up projects and no new projects ready to go. Work on the road has slowed down due to the holidays and the economy being what it is. We currently have members on the road in MA, MD, NJ, SC, FL, MO, WI, AZ, NV, and WA.

We currently have;
* 137 working for local contractors
* 20 working locally for out of town contractors
* 64 working on the road
* 24 out of work

O’Connor has completed the outages at Schiller Station and Merrimack Station and apparently all went well on both projects. Merrimack Station has some water lines that need to be relocated for the Scrubber project that will keep some of our members going for a few more weeks.

NPI was awarded the plumbing only on the Life Science Center at Dartmouth College and will be looking for Plumbing Foreman when that project begins. Please contact me if interested.

RTH has filled their calls for the Manchester and PNSY that will go through the end of the year and is looking to hang onto their workforce through the winter.

I want to thank everyone in the Local for their help in the election. We made history on November 4th by electing a Labor friendly President along with all the candidates we endorsed. Thank You and Happy Holidays!!!!
Gas Fitter Licensing:
Existing Technician applications must be submitted to the NH State Fire Marshal before the close of business on December 31, 2008. After that date, applications will require proof of completion from an approved training course.
Fire Marshal phone # 603-223-4289.

NFPA 54 CODE:
Seminars will be scheduled here at the Local 131 facility after January 1st. Code books ($55) are available and will be required for the seminars. Seminars will be held in two 4-hour sessions to comply with the 8-hour NFPA 54 license renewal requirement!
Additional eight hours of training is required on any gas equipment, controls, piping etc. This is provided free by vendors at various supply houses. (Total Air Dec 2nd) We have been trying to coordinate with vendors to make some of this training available here at the Local 131 facility. Dates yet to be determined

Plumbing Seminars 2009
February 9 - May 4 - August 10 - November 9
Seminars start at 6:00 PM (registration open 5:30 PM
Members LU131 – FREE ** All others - $75.00

Training Opportunities:
- **UA University** – Various UA training sessions held at many UA Local’s around the country.
- **College On Demand** – On-line educational opportunities through the UA affiliation with Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, MI.

Certification Continuity:
Welders and Medical Gas Installers:
Each certified member is required to provide continuity every six months per ASME IX.
This is a code requirement, not a Kim requirement!
If you are completing continuity requirements for the contractor you are working for, have the documentation forwarded to us.

Journeyman Training:
Classes to be scheduled based on demand are:
1) **Medical Gas Installer** – 40-hour class plus brazing and exam, tentatively scheduled to run Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6 – 9 pm February 10th through March 26th.
2) **Valve Re-Certification** : 10 – 12 hours with exam
3) **R410A Safety Training & Certification**
4) **Weld Test**
   Sign up sheets are available! Sign up on web site or call!
   www.ualu131.org or 603-669-7516

Office Bits & Bytes
Mo Demers / Office Administrator

I love holiday entertainment!

*Movies:* "A Christmas Story" and “Miracle on 34th Street”.
*Animation:* “Frosty The Snowman” and “A Charlie Brown Christmas.”
*Live shows:* “The Rockettes” at Radio City Music Hall and “The Neighbors” caroling at your own front door. These shows have become a part of the fabric of our holiday traditions. Before VCRs and DVDs, we scheduled our lives around Christmas shows on TV. The only activity in our house during these shows was wrapping presents on the living room floor. I cried if we missed “Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer.”

I am currently directing the play “It's A Wonderful Life”. Once again I’m reminded of how uplifting live theater is. You can escape into another world for a couple of hours. You can forget the heating bills, the shopping list and the in-laws. You can laugh and giggle and not feel foolish. It is truly medicine for a heavy soul.

We’re coming to the end of a very difficult year. But the holiday season is a time to reflect on the blessings that still remain: friends, family, freedom. I hope your holidays are happy and safe. I hope your stockings are full and I hope you can get out and see a show at this magical time of year. You've earned it!

Happy Holidays!
Next union meeting
Wednesday - Dec. 10, 2008
7:00 PM

New Membership Cards

The new 2009/2010 cards are due to arrive from the UA in early December. Once processed, cards will be mailed out to members who are paid through December ‘08. If you are not paid through the end of the year, your new card will be sent to you with your receipt upon payment of December ‘08 dues.

For Rent
2 bedroom mobile home on its own land in Oaklawaha, Florida - just 15 minutes east of Silver Springs. Looking for a long-term tenant but will consider monthly rentals.
Contact Brother Wayne Edwards for more info
603-878-3052

The Local Union 131 Apprentices Annual Christmas Food Drive

A bin has been placed in the union hall lobby for the collection of canned goods and non-perishable food items.
Bring donations to the hall
Monday thru Friday ~ 7am - 4pm

The next Retiree’s monthly breakfast is
Monday, Dec 01, 9:00 am at City Side Grill, Concord
The next Retiree’s monthly meeting is
Tuesday, Dec 09,10:00 am at the Union Hall, Hooksett

** Attendance at November Retirees Meeting **

The dues for 2008-09 are trickling in. Thank you to those who have sent it in already.
Remember that the retiree dues fund benefits for our fellow retirees.

It’s been a while since we’ve had a speaker at one of our meetings. If anyone has an idea for someone they know who might like to come in OR someone you would like hear, suggestions are greatly appreciated. Guests can speak on any topic. Insurance costs? Sure. Help with Medicare paperwork? Fine. But lighter fare is good too! Anyone know a good movie critic or wig designer or travel agent? How about a magician? Health tips – cooking tips – travel info. Any ideas at all, please contact me.
My number is on the outside of this newsletter. Happy Holidays to all.