



Kansas Direct Pipeline

Official Publication of
PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS UA LOCAL UNION 441

Kansas
 Direct Pipeline
 PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS
 LOCAL UNION #441
 1330 E. 1st St. N., Suite 115
 Wichita, KS 67214-4000



VOL. 9 NO. 2

AUGUST 2011



Richard L. Taylor

Business Manager's Report

Please take time to recognize your newly-elected Local 441 Officers who are highlighted in this edition of the Kansas Direct Pipeline, and thank you to the past officers for their valuable service and commitment to Local 441. Involvement in your Local Union is critical to the success of any labor organization. This is something each of us can work toward, from the first year apprentice to the life member. When the opportunity is presented to get involved in your Local Union, take advantage of it. Make certain that your financial obligations to this local and the United Association are current. This not only ensures you a voice, but also supports the organizations that fight to protect your working conditions and strives to collectively make sure you receive a fair pay and solid benefits for the skillful work you perform. Also, as a member, you have every right to know and understand anything we as your elected officers are doing

to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns about your local union, I encourage you to pick up the phone and call or stop by the hall. There is nothing we can do to stop unjustified rumors, but we can be here to serve you and answer any questions you may have.

Since the last newsletter, apprentice applications and interviews have taken place. We had several excellent candidates and the decisions made by the members of the various Joint Apprenticeship Committees to determine which applicants would be accepted has been a difficult one. Currently, we have initiated 26 new first-year apprentices statewide.

Latest update on the Holcomb Expansion Project

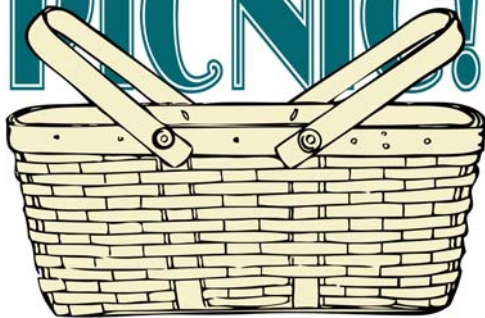
On June 29th I was invited by Jerry O'Leary, Director of Energy for the UA, to attend a meeting in Washington D.C. between the Federal EPA and Sunflower Electric along with some others involved in the energy industry. The intent of the meeting was to review and discuss the impact of the preliminary EPA Maximum Achievable Control Technology Standards (EPA MACT Rules) proposed back in early April of this year.

Simply put, the emission limitations proposed by the EPA for new coal-based units are unachievable. In fact, EPA has not identified a single plant that can achieve all of the limits established by the proposed rule. Rather they have found one plant that can achieve one limit (for instance particulate matter), a different that can achieve a second limit (say mercury), and a third plant that achieve the third limit (acid gases), and so on to the point that EPA has now created a "Frankenplant" which they claim can do the job. Further, experts tell me that the limits established by the "Franken-parts" for mercury and hydrochloric acid gas could not have even been measured in the test timeline cited to support the limits. Therefore, it is the conclusion of these industry leaders that a new coal-based unit cannot possibly be constructed that meets the proposed new plant limits for hazardous air pollutants. The demand of the meeting was that EPA must properly determine an appropriate set of measureable and achievable limits that can currently be constructed using existing commercial technology.

The proposed EPA MACT Rules are scheduled to be issued as a final rule November 16, 2011. If issued as proposed, a coal-based plant cannot be designed or guaranteed to meet the new plant requirements. In fact it was pointed out in the meeting that there are actually a total of 12 new units permitted across the country including Holcomb that have been put on hold pending the outcome of this final ruling. Imagine if you will the number of jobs that vanish because of this.

[Continued on Page 7]

Plumbers and Pipefitters PICNIC!



Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Area Picnics

WICHITA AREA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Blvd, Wichita, Kansas

TOPEKA & LAWRENCE AREA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Gage Park/Big Gage Shelter House, 635 SW Gage Blvd
 (6th & Gage, west a block, south a block, north side of zoo entrance)

FRONTENAC AREA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Lincoln Park Shelter #3, Pittsburg, Ks
 (W 12th & 69 Bypass, go east one block at Lincoln Park)

Inside...

Plumbing and Pipefitting Retirement	2
State Building Trades Meet	2
In Memoriam.....	3
Employment Dispatch.....	3
Manhattan/Fort Riley Area	3
Lawrence Area	3
Conway Manifold Project.....	4
KU Tunnel Project.....	5
Lawrence Energy Center.....	5
Wichita Zone 1A.....	6
New Officers Sworn In	6
Military Dues Office Policy.....	6
Sick/Disabled Dues Office Policy.....	6
2011 and 2012 Holiday Schedule.....	7
Frontenac Area.....	7
Topeka Area East	7
Contacts	7
Apprentice Training and News.....	8

Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Retirement Plan of Kansas

By Joe Pucci, Plan Administrator

During the Wolf Creek outage, I received many calls from Participants asking if the employer(s) were making contributions to the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Retirement Plan of Kansas or to the 401(k) Plan. Local 441 has only one defined contribution plan. That is the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Retirement Plan of Kansas. This Plan is a 401(k) Plan. All Zones participate in this Plan and have since 2005. MassMutual holds the assets for the Plan. Part of the confusion was caused because some of the employers reported the amount of some members deferred wages (employee contributions) under "Savings Account" on the check stub.

If you worked on this job in the Topeka Zone 2A, the journeyman contribution rate was \$2.75 per hour. For 2nd thru 5th year apprentices, the rate was \$.75 per hour. To my knowledge, all contributions, both employer and employee, have now been received correctly.

The fact that at least one employer reported the employee deductions as contributions to a savings account concerns me. The employers did make all required employer and employee contributions, but by listing it as a contribution to a savings account, I am afraid they may consider the amount of employee contributions to be taxable. When you receive your W-2 Form from any employer, your Social Security wages should be higher than your taxable wages, if you made employee contributions (deferred wages) thru your employer to the Plan. If you chose to make employee contributions and your W-2 Form is not completed correctly, I suggest you contact the employer and tell them they have made a mistake on your W-2. If you have any problems finding an employer that you worked for during 2011, please contact me at (620) 232-3799 and I will try to assist you.

On June 1, 2011, some of the rates for employer contributions changed. The Journeyman and Apprentice Employer contribution rates for each Zone are listed below.

Frontenac Zone 1B - Journeyman \$2.10 per hour - Apprentices same

Lawrence Zone 2B - Journeyman \$2.75 per hour - Apprentices 1st Year \$0.00 - 2nd thru 5th \$0.75

Topeka Zone 2A - Journeyman \$3.00 per hour - Apprentices 1st Year \$0.00 - 2nd thru 5th \$1.00

Wichita Zone 1A - Journeyman \$0.50 per hour - Apprentices same - Hutchinson Agreement \$0.20

You should be receiving a Statement from MassMutual each quarter. If you are not receiving Statements, please contact me at the above phone number. Each quarter, after the Statements are sent by MassMutual, I receive calls from Participants that cannot match their Statement to their record of the hours they worked during the quarter. This is not surprising, as the Statements will never match the hours you worked during the quarter and this can be very confusing. As an example, the Statement you received for the 1st quarter of 2011 reflected the hours you worked in November, December 2010 and January 2011. The Statement for the 2nd quarter should reflect hours worked in February, March and April 2011. This lag is caused by the system used nationwide to collect contributions for multi-employer plans. April hours, if reported properly, are received by our bank by May 15. We will try to send the contributions for April to MassMutual by June 10. This allows us to balance the April contributions to the April bank statement before sending the allocation and the funds to MassMutual.

Tracking your hours using the above method should work, unless your employer does not make contributions in a timely manner or if you are working outside of our jurisdiction. If you are traveling to another local to work, your employer will send your contributions to the fund office of the host local union. The host fund office will then transfer your pension hours and contributions to the National Pension Plan. The National Pension Plan will then reciprocate your "pro-rata" contributions to our Plan. There are exceptions. If, and I stress if, all involved handle their duties in a timely manner, we will receive the contributions approximately 3 months following the month you worked. This means that when you travel there is really no method of matching your hours worked to the MassMutual Statement, but if you have questions and contact me, I can match the contributions received to the amount on your Statement and tell you what employer contributions are reflected on the Statement. There are no employee contributions when you travel to work in another local.

One last thought before closing. From time to time, Participants ask me in which MassMutual Investment Accounts they should invest their contributions. I would be breaking federal law if I gave any advice, even if I tell you how my account is invested. The Trustees hired Ben Newhouse to assist you and them. If you have questions about the different options offered under the Plan, please contact Ben at his toll free number, (866) 577-7101.

If any of the foregoing conflicts with the rules of the Plan, the Plan Document(s) will govern.

State Building Trades Meet

Building Trade representatives met in Emporia in June to discuss upcoming work in Kansas and hear from state political leaders.



LOCAL UNION #441 Officers, Committee and Staff

Jerry D. Short, President

John W. Crusinberry III, Vice-President

**Richard L. Taylor, Business Manager
and Financial Secretary-Treasurer**

Kerry M. Stine, Recording Secretary

Mark R. Hromek, Sergeant-at-Arms

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES/ORGANIZERS

Bill Urton, Dispatcher	(316) 265-4291
John Shepherd, Jr.	(316) 265-4291
Kirk Miller, Sr.	(785) 354-8539
Denis Wittman	(785) 843-3151
Mike Wolownik	(620) 231-4280
Phil Petty	(785) 539-8977

OFFICE STAFF

Angela Hermann	(316) 265-4291
Jolene Senter	
Carol Ann Lewis	

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Donald E. Henry, Jr.	Dan A. McCulloch
Shelby M. McDonald	Richard T. Watson, Jr.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David E. Emerson
William J. Lorg
Thomas J. Strickland

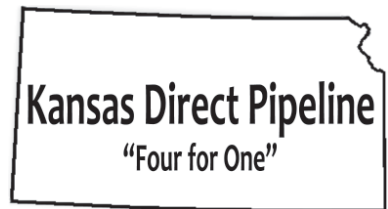
EXAMINERS

Kenneth G. Englert	Steven P. Hogard
Paul D. Preston	Calvin D. Startzman

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

If you have any questions or comments regarding 441 by-laws, please feel free to contact one of your By-Laws Committee members.

Jerry Short	(316) 733-9511
Carl Cole	(316) 218-8475
Dan McCulloch	(785) 286-0774



**Official publication of
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union #441.
Kansas Direct Pipeline reserves the right
to reject or discontinue any material
considered unfair to Local #441.**

**Address all inquiries to:
1330 E 1st St, Ste 115, Wichita, KS 67214,
(316) 265-4291, email@ua441.org**

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org



**IN
MEMORIAM**

John M. Amos, 55, died April 17, 2011. Most recently of Emporia, Ks. Brother in good standing for 33 years.

Glenn H. Combs, 81, died April 11, 2011. Most recently of Salina, Ks. Brother in good standing for 21 years.

Sherman Fields, 91, died July 11, 2011. Most recently of Grove, OK. Brother in good standing for 55 years.

Orval E. Rogers, 88, died March 25, 2011. Most recently of Topeka, Ks. Brother in good standing for 59 years.

Robert T. Rogers, 64, died March 16, 2011. Most recently of Columbus, Ks. Brother in good standing for 18 years.

Clyde D. Smith, 89, died June 19, 2011. Most recently of Toronto, Ks. Brother in good standing for 44 years.

Robert David Smith, 38, died July 10, 2011. Most recently of Wichita, Ks. Brother in good standing for 2 years.



Notices of brothers and sisters who have passed on are posted on our website as received: www.ua441.org. Click on "Member Information" and "In Memoriam."

Celebrating Workers and their accomplishments.

Labor Day

Sept. 5, 2011

So, get on out there and have fun! You've earned it.

UNION MEMBERS ROCK!

Visit YOUR Union Website:

www.UA441.org!

Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I reported in the last article that our work should improve as we get into spring. I don't have to tell you that I missed my prediction. We are still waiting for the work to improve. It seems that every time we think a major project is going to happen, it either gets cancelled or pushed back.

The good news is that we did have a pre-job meeting with P1 Group and Midwest Mechanical in regards to the Ft. Riley hospital project. P1 and Midwest teamed up to form a joint venture as one company to build a project of this size. It will start in mid-July and peak manpower will be between 90 and 100 UA members and last for 22 months.

Mechanics Inc. also has the first phase of the casino project in Mulvane. There are three phases to the project and if the other two are awarded to Mechanics Inc., we will be sending more manpower there.

Work on the road is spotty. I am able to get welders out, but it is still very tough to get a pipefitter or plumber out. Most locals that have work are taking care of their sister locals and unfortunately, right now, our local doesn't have a sister local with full employment.

I would like to thank everyone that participated in the outage at Wolf Creek. Atlantic Plant Maintenance reported that it was a huge success. The plant manager for Wolf Creek had an article in their plant newspaper that I would like to quote.

Russell Smith, plant manager, talked about the level of professionalism among our outage work force. A prime example is the 38 welders here with APM to support the turbine rotor replacement project. All 38 welders, who are out of the Wichita UA Local 441, passed Wolf Creek's welding test. It is very unusual for a 100% pass rate, especially with so many coming in at one time. These welders not only show great skill, but they also have some of the best housekeeping and work practices the Field Work Monitoring Team has seen. They show a high-degree of concern not only for their safety but also for the safety of those around them by using 360-degree flash screen coverage around their work area, which protects everyone from flash burns to the eyes.

This type of recognition will go a long way for future work in that plant for Local 441.

Keep up the good work and do it safely!

Fraternally,

Bill Urton (316) 265-4291

Business Representative/Dispatcher



Manhattan/Fort Riley Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Congratulations to MMC and P1 Group for securing our work on the New Hospital Project at Fort Riley. The two companies developed MMC/P1 Joint Venture and worked as one to secure this very important project.

The Project will commence in Mid-July 2011 and scheduled to be completed June 2013. Exceptional organization, cooperation, and production will be required to meet such an aggressive schedule. I look forward to a successful project that employs numerous Brothers and Sisters.

Another significant project in the area has been temporarily delayed. The NBAF Facility is not on the original construction schedule, but site work has continued. I hope by the time you read this, or shortly after, a Fair Contractor has been awarded the Utility Plant portion of the Project.

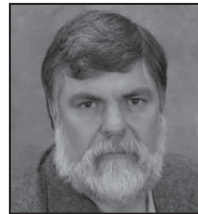
Numerous projects are currently under construction, and many more are scheduled. McElroy's, Mid-American Water and Plumbing, Reid Plumbing, Hussmann, JCI, Associated Mechanical, Environmental Mechanical, Waldinger and U.S. Engineering are some of the fair contractors that have been working in the area. Unfortunately, you don't have to look very far to find unfair contractors working on projects in the area. We will continue to hold them accountable whenever possible and raise their cost to a more level playing field.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer, and look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally Yours,

Phil Petty (785) 539-8977

Organizer/Business Representative



Lawrence Area

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

The Lawrence Area Chamber has succeeded in obtaining a new owner for the Plastic Plant in the East Hills area. Two contractors and nine men have worked for over two months on change order requests. Work at the KU Campus is going well with the following contractors: Chaney; P1 Group; Saladino; Van Hoecke; McElroys; and, Midwest Mechanical. Most of these contractors will have work in progress throughout the summer.

Hospital job and the ICL Plant in north Lawrence along with other small jobs in the area are helping with employment. Sterling Boiler is still going strong at the Powerhouse and should for another year. Hy-Vee grocery addition in Lawrence is still on-going. Fab shop at Taylor Forge has picked up some work for now. Work should be on-going throughout the summer.

The City has been in charge of the tearing down and clean-up of the old Coop Fertilizer Plant. Really makes a difference in the site appearance.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy summer with family and friends.

Fraternally yours,

Denis Wittman (785) 843-3151

Lawrence Business Representative

930 E. 28th Street, Lawrence, KS 66046



Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.

—Robert F. Kennedy

Conway Manifold Project

Contractor: Logan & Company Inc.



Greg Walker, Aaren Marshall, Jeff McDonald and James Wells



Houston Thigpen



Houston Thigpen



Houston Thigpen and James Kallus



James Sullivan and Justin Dryden



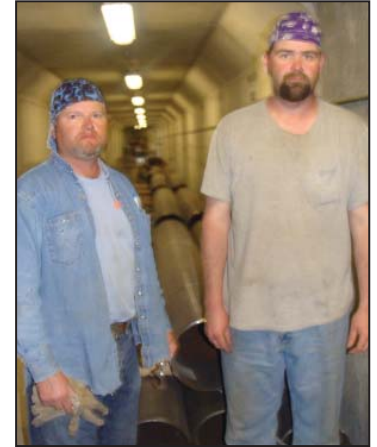
Houston Thigpen and Greg Walker

KU Tunnel Project

Contractor: Van Hoecke Contracting, Inc.



Jesse Garrett and Steve McMillan



Steve McMillan and Jesse Garrett

Lawrence Energy Center

Contractor: Sterling Boiler



Mike Teter, Mikey Teter and Foreman Mick Roudybush



Denis Wittman, Matt Gleaves and Rusty Johnson



Royce Wiley and Tony Beck



Local 441 Crew for Sterling at Lawrence Energy Center



Wichita Area Zone 1A

Greetings Brothers, Sisters, and families.

Summer is upon us again and I hope the Kansas heat is not deterring you from your activities. As always, it is my honor to serve you as the business representative for the Wichita area.

First, I would like to begin with our current contractor and jobsite updates. The single most heavily manned project is the new Northeast High School in Wichita. This is the first new high school built in Wichita since Northwest was built in 1978. The project has Davis/Bacon provisions included as federal monies were secured in the bond provision. This project is a P&E Commercial Services jobsite with Jerry Short as the steward. We also have the first phase of the Kansas Star Casino. This would include the events center, which will also temporarily house the gaming area. The permanent gaming house will be included in Phase II that will be bid around the first of August. Work for the balance of our contractor base is slowly picking up. However, many of the projects on the books are out of the Wichita metro area, and many are in far western Kansas. The HVAC service industry continues to be strong with virtually all of our service managers claiming techs have been working long hours to cover the workload. At this time, the industrial piping industry has slowed substantially.



Logan & Company currently is working on a manifold replacement project. In short, they are replacing an outdated underground manifold system with a new above ground system complete with updated electronic controls and valves to make better use of Williams underground storage facility in Conway, KS. Shelby McDonald is the piping general foreman and is working a complete crew of welders, pipefitters, and apprentices to meet the deadline for outage tie-ins scheduled for early August. As a whole in the area, industrial piping projects will be providing more work opportunities as the 2011 year progresses.

Next, I would like to thank everyone with the help and commitments in reference to plumbing and mechanical boards, continuing education, and organizing. Organizing is a touchy subject with members at times. Recently our needs have not been to bring new members in. My efforts have been focused upon educating non-members as to organize a non-union contractor. This a very time consuming venture. Some avenues work very well at times and others do not. I feel very strongly that organizing is the key to market share recovery. Several of the other building trades crafts have proven this to be a fact, and I am meeting with them as often as I can to gain some insight of their successes. If we as a local union subscribe to the theory that once the non-union gets loaded down with work our contractors will be able to compete more, we will find ourselves losing even more ground to the non-union. Fact 1: The non-union companies have no plans of getting smaller. They will take every manhour of work they can from union contractors. Fact 2: They can man any project they want to at substandard wages and no benefits. Currently the average non-union plumber makes \$16.50/hr with no benefits and they work everyday and have for years. My point being, we as a local union need to act on market recovery now. We cannot wait any longer. It is up to our membership to get involved!

The year 2011 has seen some good signs of improvement in the piping and plumbing market place. We look forward to several new projects bidding and already secured by our local contractors over the next six months. Industrial projects really look to take off in 2012. Commercially, we will continue to struggle as long as our market share hovers around 7%. I look for that work to pick up, but only slightly.

In closing, I would like to announce our picnic will be Saturday September 24, at the Sedgwick County Zoo. This works out well as our graduating apprentice banquet is the evening before. This will give the young gentlemen from Lawrence, Topeka, and Frontenac a chance to take in Wichita's world renowned Zoo and meet new members from another area. In the many conversations with members, interest for a local golf outing seems to be gaining momentum. I invite any one with ideas to please give me a call and we can set a group meeting to get this idea off the ground. I hope you all enjoy your summer. I am available 24/7 for the needs of the membership, and truly appreciate your support.

Fraternally yours,

John H. Shepherd Jr. (316) 265-4291
Plumbers & Pipefitters of Kansas Local #441
Wichita Area Business Representative Zone 1A

Congratulations! New Officers Sworn In for Three-Year Terms

Newly-elected officers for Local 441 were sworn in at the July 11th Union meeting and officially took office effective on that date.



Plumbers & Pipefitters LU #441 MILITARY DUES OFFICE POLICY

Local 441 pays dues for members who are on military duty.

REQUIREMENTS

- A letter or copy of orders for member file
- Members need to keep in contact with the Local office and let us know at least once a year (or at the end of their active duty) as to their status as to their military duty.

Other Information

- Members need to notify Local 441 when they go back to work
- Local 441 only pays dues for the member if the member has been off the entire month
- Local 441 does NOT pay for death assessments. The member continues to pay those.

Other Instructions

- Members need to contact Health & Welfare Office at (316) 264-2339 regarding their military status.
- Members that are apprentices need to contact the Apprenticeship Office (316) 267-8508 as to their military status.



Plumbers & Pipefitters LU #441 SICK/DISABLED DUES OFFICE POLICY

Local 441 pays dues for members who are disabled as follows:

REQUIREMENTS

- A letter or document from a doctor for member file; this must be submitted every three months
- Member qualifies if drawing short term disability through H&W office. (You may submit a copy of the signed H&W form as document from doctor needed by Local 441 office. H&W cannot submit this form on your behalf due to the privacy act.)
- Member qualifies if drawing work comp
- Member CANNOT be working at all (even in another field) or we do not pay their dues

Other Information

- Members need to notify Local 441 when they go back to work
- Local 441 only pays dues for the member if the member has been off the entire month
- If there is a settlement, member goes back to work, or goes on permanent disability and draws social security or Pension, the member is responsible to pay their own dues
- Local 441 does NOT pay for death assessments. The member continues to pay those.

2011 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Monday, September 5th - Labor Day Holiday (All Zones)
 Thursday, November 24th - Thanksgiving Day Holiday (All Zones)
 Friday, November 25th - Day After Thanksgiving Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)
 Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)
 Monday, December 26th - Christmas Day Holiday (All Zones)

2012 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Monday, January 2nd - New Year's Day Holiday (All Zones)
 Monday, May 28th - Memorial Day Holiday (All Zones)
 Wednesday, July 4th - July 4th Holiday (All Zones)
 Monday, September 3rd - Labor Day Holiday (All Zones)
 Thursday, November 22nd - Thanksgiving Day Holiday (All Zones)
 Friday, November 23rd - Day After Thanksgiving Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)
 Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)
 Tuesday, December 25th - Christmas Day Holiday (All Zones)

Frontenac Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I hope this finds you and your family enjoying your summer! Work in S/E Kansas is picking up! Pittsburg State University is involved in an Energy Management Savings project. This project, which has been awarded to PM Contracting out of KC, is employing five to six men for the summer.



CTS and Logan are both looking at the work in the upcoming turnaround at the Coffeyville Refinery.

The work performed earlier this year at Sugar Creek Packing Company went very well. Our members did such a great job that Wagner and Meinert should be awarded the upcoming fall project.

The Allen County Hospital should bid this fall and we hope to gain much of the work. And the County Commissioners have been discussing the zoning of land north of town for a new VA Hospital with 82% already funded from Federal money. Hopefully we can fast track this project (rumor has it).

I recently stopped by Evonik, the old Gulf plant in Galena, and met with the engineering department. It appears that work within the plant is picking up and plans for a nice expansion are in the works. Hopefully, a few union contractors will get to help with this project.

In closing, I would like to extend a "THANK YOU" to everyone who supported me in the UA delegate election. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Fraternally Yours,
 Mike Wolownik (620) 231-4280
 Frontenac Business Representative - Zone 1B

Ben Newhouse is Local 441's Independent Financial Advisor. Members, please feel free to give him a call at 1-866-577-7101, option 5, for assistance and advice with your Mass Mutual investment account.

UA Local #441 Plumbers & Pipefitters Monthly Union Meetings

KANSAS LOCAL #441 UNION MEETINGS
 Second Monday of every month, 7 p.m.
 (316) 265-4291/1330 E. 1st Street, Wichita

Next Meeting Dates:

Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10

UA LOCAL #441 RETIREE MEETINGS

Frontenac Area Retirees
 Tuesday mornings at Home Café, Cherokee, KS at 8 a.m.

Wichita Area Retirees
 Meeting at the Hall, 1330 E. 1st Street N., on the first Wednesday every month at 10 a.m.
 Breakfast is the second Wednesday of every month (except December) at 9 a.m. at Spears Restaurant, 4323 W. Maple, Wichita.

Note: All retirees and spouses and former members' widows are welcome to attend any of the area meetings.

[Business Manager's Report continued from Page 1]

I was encouraged in the meeting by the makeup of the group and diversity of stakeholders that attended the meeting. There was plenty of open and honest discussion as the industry partners shared their specific thoughts. Vendors relayed the fact that they had no equipment and further there was no technology available to manufacture equipment that could meet the emission standards and therefore could not issue guarantees to contractors such as Bechtel to build the new units. Thus, all new coal-powered units have been put on hold.

I am convinced that this type of dialogue proposed from the stakeholders pointing out the effects of the pending MACT rulings will lead to a greater understanding by the EPA of just what is needed to allow a truly Clean Coal Technology Agenda to go forward as was proposed by President Obama during his campaign and as continued in much commentary since becoming President. It is essential that the Federal EPA is afforded unvarnished, pertinent information for this process to continue. To allow an industry such as coal powered generation to abruptly be stopped would not only be devastating to our own industry, but also to that of the entire United States.

On the state level, Holcomb is going through the court process with lawsuits filed by the environmental groups. I remain in constant communication with our contacts at Sunflower Electric Corporation and will continue to update the membership as information is received.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank UA Director of Energy Jerry O'Leary for his tireless, unwavering work and efforts to illustrate to the EPA just how devastating to the industry the new emission standards will be. Brother O'Leary will be retiring at the end of this year and this is one Business Manager, as I am sure there are many, which will sorely miss his constant battle for the membership of the United Association.

Work smart, work safe, and may God bless each of you and your loved ones.

CONTACTS

Wichita (316) 265-4291 Training (316) 267-8508
 Topeka (785) 354-8539 Training (785) 234-2006
 Lawrence (785) 843-3151
 Frontenac (620) 231-4280 Training (620) 724-6115
 Local Union 441 Website: www.ua441.org

The **Health & Welfare Office** handles your local pension information, KSR (401k), and general questions regarding your health insurance (such as your status in qualifying for insurance benefits.)

If you have specific questions regarding your insurance, such as a list of doctors, please refer to the numbers listed below for Blue Cross and Delta Dental.

Health & Welfare Office

www.ppi-fund.org
 (316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas

www.BCBSKS.com
 (800) 432-3990 or (785) 291-4180

Delta Dental of Kansas

www.DeltaDentalKS.com
 (800) 234-3375 or (316) 264-4511

If you have a Pension through the United Association, the National Pension office is where you call for any questions related to your pension.

If you are close to retirement and are ready to start the paperwork, please request an application for a retirement packet from National. Also request a work contribution history report from National Pension as this will assist you in the process.

National Pension (800) 638-7442

Local Pension/KS Annuity

(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

United Association Website: www.UA.org

Topeka Area East

Brothers and Sisters,

Topeka received some good news! A M&M-Mars plant will be built here. The first phase is expected to cost some



\$250 million. Let's hope the City of Topeka and the Chamber, along with Go Topeka, didn't cut any deals that would let the construction be brought in like in most of the recent cases such as Target and Home Depot just to name a couple. Looking at the area hours, we are up in 2010 through now, but way down from 2007 and 2008. With the Fort

Riley Hospital, the NBAF rumors, if we could get our share of this job North East Kansas would be a good place to be. We will have our picnic at the Gage Park Zoo this year on October 15th. Hope to see all of you there.

Fraternally yours,

Kirk W. Miller, Sr. (785) 354-8539
 Topeka Business Representative
 3906 NW 16th St. Topeka, KS 66618

Apprentice News By Kerry Stine, Training Director

Where did the time go?

The first year of day school has come and gone. It is amazing how fast the time goes by when you are focused on a task. The first year went better than could be expected. As with any new system or project, there were a few hiccups along the way. The State of Kansas kept throwing us curve balls by changing their system on a regular basis, but we were able to work through it. There were plenty of times that apprentice schedules had to be changed to accommodate critical job schedules but we were able to work around it. Overall there were no obstacles that could not be overcome and the opportunity for the apprentices to learn has increased dramatically.

The credit for such a great start to the day school program goes to the instructors and the office staff. The instructors: Ken Englert, Steve Hogard, Dan McCulloch, Calvin Startzman, and Paul Preston, worked non-stop to put together an environment conducive to learning and that also engaged the apprentices both in the classroom and the shop. In the office, Kim Bushey and Jessica Hixon were constantly having some new certification or project pushed their way, but they kept their cool and always came up with a way to make it work.

Another group that deserves credit is the apprentices. Change is always difficult, but after the first rotation the apprentices settled into the routine and made the best of the new system. The apprentices have also offered up some good ideas for improvement and things to think about.

With the coming year there will be changes to classes and the layout of the weekly schedule. These changes come from the experience of the first year of the day school system. We are constantly looking for ways to improve the training program. If any of the membership has any ideas or thoughts that may be of help, please send them our way. We need all the help we can get.

The Regional Apprenticeship Contest took place June 8 & 9, 2011 at Local 597 Pipefitters Training Center in Mokena, IL. Local 441 sent the following four contestants: Mike Wannow – Plumbing; Cody Brookshire – HVAC; Jamin Wayne – Pipefitting; and, Anthony Hagar – Welding. All competed well, but unfortunately we did not crack the top three in any of the categories. Our guys were competing against apprentices from 11 states which included Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. There are some pretty large locals in some of these states and the competition is always close.

Instructor Ken Englert

With the help of the contractors and job supervision, all of the apprentices have concluded a full year of training, including any class time that they missed due to plant outages, turnarounds and out-of-town jobs. The 5th-year graduating class has successfully finished the UA Foreman Training class along with passing the UA certification test. We continue to include and upgrade safety training as an important part of the apprenticeship program. All of the 4th-year apprentices have completed the 30 hour "Confined Spaces" class and have achieved the required certification sponsored by the Center of Protect Workers Rights. The new class schedules have been given to all of the apprentices for next year, with classes starting August 22, 2011. I would like to congratulate the graduating apprentices for a job well done and encourage the remaining apprentices to strive to reach the title of "UA Journeyman."

They are our future.

Instructor Paul Preston

The apprentices have been testing for UA weld certification every Thursday for the past six weeks. We have tested over 70 apprentices with some passing and others getting the experience of a welding test. The STAR Pipefitter Mastery was passed by seven 5th-year apprentices. Upcoming UA weld certification testing on August 27th in Wichita. Call our office at 316-267-8508 to sign up as there are still openings. I will be attending the UA convention in Las Vegas the first week of August and then the next week to Ann Arbor, Michigan for more knowledge!

Instructor Steve Hogard

Mike Wannow, Cory Ray, and Chris Torrez competed in the Local Plumbers Apprenticeship Contest. Mike Wannow advanced to the Regional 4 Contest in Chicago and placed 4th. Congratulations Mike on a job well done. Also, in the past year, 30 1st-year apprentices received their OSHA 30 training. Thirty-two 3rd year apprentices received their backflow certifications and 33 4th-years completed their medical gas certification of installer/brazing. We had 26 3rd year plumbers signed up to take their Journeyman Plumber Gas Block test at various times over the next three months. Good luck and congratulations to all apprentices in their accomplishments over the last year. Have a good summer and see you in August.

Instructor Dan McCulloch

The HVAC Department sent Cody Brookshire to Chicago for the Regional Apprenticeship Contest and he represented us well by placing in 5th place. Finishing up our first year of day school and we have issued 22 EPA cards, 13 410A cards and 12 Green Awareness cards. Seven apprentices received their Journeyman Mechanical License with one receiving his Masters. It was a busy year and a lot of testing to all of our apprentices. Next year we are working on testing for UMC and UPC through NITC at school for state licensing so our computer lab will be getting a work out. To all of our apprentices, have a great summer and congratulations to our 5th years — we will see you at graduation!

We are looking for a workable steam boiler for the next school year if anyone is removing one or donations will be accepted with open arms. Please contact me at the school at 316-267-8508

Instructor Calvin Startzman

Over 100 apprentices have received their Rigging and the new OSHA crane signal qualification. This journeyman training is going very well. It is a two Saturday 8 hour CEU course which includes a written exam along with a practical exam for the signalperson. Good turnout in Topeka with 21 journeymen completing this course. There are still openings available for the July 16th and July 23rd class in Wichita.

Congratulations to Jamin Wayne for winning the local pipefitters competition this year. He had to compete against Dustin Roudybush which was a very close call. Jamin went on to Chicago to compete with others. Classes are almost over for this year and I have started preparing for next year. It has been a learning experience for me as well as the apprentices.



Jamin Wayne, Anthony Hagar, Mike Wannow, Cody Brookshire



(L-R) Logan Kelly, Robert Little, Jade Killgore, Joe Schenk



Clyde Henson



Brian Burnett, Dan McCulloch, Ken Englert, John Clark

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org