As of March 1, 2014, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 441 began its twelfth year. Looking back there has been much achieved, but not without a few obstacles. However, working together we found ways to overcome them. And through all of this we developed strength, perseverance, and character as a labor organization and at the same time gained recognition and consideration by many in the State of Kansas. We are viewed as a highly qualified and “better-value” work force that is second-to-none in our industry. We have political influence that is respected by both parties so when issues arise, we have an established voice that is sought out and heard.

We have seen our Local prosper when many across the country have lost considerable market share and membership primarily due to the effects of the past recession. Local 441 has proven to be an exception. Our market share has continued to grow resulting in 2013 having the most hours worked since Local 441 was chartered. This new record shattered the previous best year by over 200,000 manhours. Our membership held steady during the tough years of the recession and then began to see growth as the work steadily increased resulting in record numbers of new first year apprentices coming into our training program over the last two years. This further indicates the increased market share this local and our contractors have been able to secure and the continued accumulation of additional manhours worked each year as this local has progressed. This is directly related to the attitudes, skills, craftsmanship and dedication illustrated by the membership of Local 441. Thank you for your hard work and support.

Local 441 is fortunate to have the amount of work it currently has in its jurisdiction and the projections for continued work look positive for many years to come. We have a unique opportunity to demonstrate just how skilled and productive our craftsmen really are. This is the time for us to rise to the challenge and demonstrate the highest quality of work possible; and perform it safely and efficiently. We will continue to let owners and end users know that if they need piping or mechanical work of any kind installed at their facility, the best contractors to call are the Union Contractors that utilize Local 441 craftsmen.

All of this has combined to strengthen us as a Local Union and provide security for our future. Our Benefit Funds have steadily increased year after year. We have been able to make positive changes to the coverage provided through our Health and Welfare Plan. We have added to our Pension Plans to insure that they will be there to provide comfort and peace-of-mind for all when needed.

The 2013 audit was just completed and your Union Funds have enjoyed substantial increases while keeping expenses down. As reported in the audit, our operating expenses for 2013 were actually less than our operating expenses were in 2010. We realized a total increase in Local 441’s net assets of $586,864 with $368,604 of that going to the General Fund, which is over double the amount of $172,467 that was added to the General Fund in 2012. With this steady increase to your General Fund, we are on track in the near future to reach the benchmark that will allow the current work assessment percentage rate to be lowered as outlined in ARTICLE VI of our Constitution and By-Laws.

Richard L. Taylor

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Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

WORK OUTLOOK

Although the beginning of 2014 started out slow, we now have near full employment. I expect the rest of the year to be very good for Local 441. And I might add, all of our surrounding sister locals have near full employment too. Our industrial work will be down a little this year, but the commercial work is good and should continue for at least the rest of the year.

Congratulations are in order for all the members that worked on the Mars plant last year. I recently had the opportunity to visit the end project and the quality of the piping is second to none. I was also able to visit the new airport in Wichita that Waldinger Corp. is doing and the Energy Center at KU that Alexander Mechanical and U.S. Engineering are currently on. Again, the quality of our workmanship is excellent.

We just finished the interview process for new apprentices and had a lot of very good applicants. If our work continues to pick up, we should be able to bring in 40 to 50 statewide. With our aging workforce it is a must to bring in new apprentices to keep up with the demand, grow our local, and protect our pension plans.

Brothers and Sisters, we have very good relations with all the MINK locals. We currently have 35 Local 441 members working in LU 533 (Kansas City). In fact, they have assured me that when they need travelers, they check with Richard and me because we are so close and vice versa. That being said, the question has come up several times as whether you remain on the Out Of Work list or not. The answer is “yes,” you do stay on the OWL and when I get manpower calls in our jurisdiction I will call and give you the option to come back.

Keep up the good work and enjoy the summer!

Fraternally,

Bill Urton (316) 265-4291
Business Representative/Dispatcher

288,000 New Jobs Drop Unemployment Rate to 6.3% in April

By Mike Hall, 5/2/2014, AFLCIO.org

The economy added 288,000 jobs in April, a big boost over March’s 192,000 new jobs. The unemployment rate dropped to 6.3% from last month’s 6.7%, according to figures released this morning by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Over the past year, the number of jobless has decreased by 1.9 million and the unemployment rate has fallen from 7.5%. While the improved jobs numbers over the past several months show the economy is beginning to recover, job growth is still not robust enough to provide jobs for the millions who remain out of work or to boost wages for most Americans.

AFL-CIO Government Affairs Director Bill Samuel said, “Today’s strong job numbers represent a significant step in the right direction for working families.” But he added:

Yet with wages stagnant and too many still out of work, our job is not done. As our economy recovers, it is important that everyone reap the benefits of our shared recovery by ensuring we are not simply creating new jobs, but good jobs. Our leaders in Congress must work quickly to build on today’s good news by passing comprehensive jobs legislation, extending unemployment insurance, and raising the minimum wage, so that growth can not only continue, but provide everyone a fair chance at the American Dream.

The number of long-term unemployed people (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) declined by 287,000 to 3.5 million in April. While the problem of long-term joblessness continues to plague the economy, House Republicans continue to refuse to allow a vote on the extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits program that was approved by a bipartisan Senate majority. House Republicans allowed emergency help for jobless workers to expire at the end of last year.

So far, nearly 3 million jobless workers have lost benefits and that number continues to rise.

Call your representative at 845-809-4509 and encourage her or him to pass the emergency unemployment benefits extension.

Last month’s biggest job gains were in professional and business services (75,000), retail trade (35,000), food services (33,000), construction (32,000), health care (19,000) and mining (10,000).

Employment in other major industries, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, wholesale trade, financial activities and government, changed little over the month.

Unemployment rates for the major worker groups declined in April: adult men (5.9%), adult women (5.7%), whites (5.3%), blacks (11.6%) and Latinos (7.3%).

[See the BLS Employment Situation Summary at http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm ]

Find out how YOUR representatives stand on the issues important to you: VoteSmart.org
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Work is good in the Manhattan/Fort Riley area with numerous jobs coming up for bid. I encourage everyone to register to vote and to encourage your family and friends to get registered also! We interviewed a lot of good apprentice applicants and look forward to many of them being hired. I look forward to seeing you and please contact me any time I can be of service.

Fraternally,

Phil Petty (785) 539-8977
Organizer/Business Representative

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Finally, we are starting to see some warmer weather in Kansas! Only one day of snow in April — this was great for all work sites. Work will be breaking in southeast Kansas as dirt work continues on the Riverton Project and they finish up fencing and parking for the contractors. Bruns and Mac have not disclosed the contractor for the underground but hopefully during the building trades meeting in May this information will be shared.

Other work in southeast Kansas: Central Air in Coffeyville is picking up work in the area and expanding their workforce; Kansas City Mechanical in LaCygne area is picking up two school projects; The Pittsburg State University dormitory remodel project scheduled for this summer went Union — no word yet as to who the contractor will be.

The gaming bill passed in southeast Kansas. We requested the City and County send letters to an entity in support of a Casino. The Indian tribe at Downstream Casino has a set of blueprints to expand on the Kansas side. We are working diligently to ensure the work goes Union.

The upcoming State Elections are fast becoming intense. Representative Paul Davis (D) of Lawrence has a good shot at winning the gubernatorial race. He is currently ahead by four percentage points and could easily gain momentum given many Kansans are not happy with the current governor/legislature. We need to get out and VOTE. If you know of someone who is not registered please help them to get registered. Every VOTE counts!

Together we can do this!!

Fraternally Yours,

Mike Wolownik (620) 231-4280
Frontenac Business Representative – Zone 1B

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Thank goodness spring has finally arrived! We all know as the weather warms up our work picks up. Right now, in northeast Kansas we have crews working at Kansas University and Washburn University. Many of our contractors are going after school work that has been approved by the Lawrence and Seaman Districts.

There are four Local Contractors at Jeffrey Energy Center hiring Local manpower and some travelers from surrounding Locals. At a recent Safety Kickoff at Jeffrey, our members and other Craft Unions were thanked for our efforts regarding safety at all the Westar Plants here in our region. I would like to congratulate all of 441 for your efforts.

I would like to also give a hearty thank you to our Brothers and Sisters who are leading our Plumbers, Fitters, Welders and HVAC members as Foremen, Area Foremen, General Foremen and Superintendents. Sometimes we don’t realize just how much work is involved for just a couple bucks an hour extra. The best way I’ve found to show appreciation to these Brothers and Sisters is to come to work every day scheduled — on time and ready to work. Contractors very rarely allow our Foremen to have extra guys as backup. The work is bid tight and our Foremen are under tremendous pressure to get the work done on time and under budget. Thanks to all of you for the work you do… every day!

I would like to extend a hearty “thank you” to Retired Business Representative Denis Wittman for his voluntary yet necessary work on the Building Committee for the new Dwayne Peaslee Tech Center. He has been an asset to our members and to Lawrence/Douglas County citizens. Denis has helped us get a seat on the new Advisory Board (soon to be announced). Great work Brother!

8-4-8!

Fraternally yours,

Rick Salyer (785) 354-8539
Topeka/Lawrence Business Representative
2132 S Kansas Ave, Topeka, Ks  66611
Topeka Candy Factory

Saturday, August 16, 2014 • 8:00 a.m. Shotgun • Lake Shawnee Golf Course • Topeka, KS

$70 per Player (includes steak lunch/two drink tickets/gifts!)

***Prize Money for 1st three flights***
Wichita Airport Project

Saturday, August 16, 2014 • 8:00 a.m. Shotgun • Lake Shawnee Golf Course • Topeka, KS

$70 per Player (includes steak lunch/two drink tickets/gifts!)

***Prize Money for 1st three flights***

Four-person scramble. Register your team early! Limited entries! Fun! Food! Prizes!

Reservations due by Friday, August 8, 2014. Contact Local 441 to register at (316) 265-4291 or email: email@ua441.org. Download your registration form at www.ua441.org
[Business Managers Report, cont’d from page 1]  

Once your Finance Committee has had an opportunity to review the audit in detail Local 441’s CPA, Rich Morrow, will give a full report at the next regular union meeting. The Target Fund has gained strength as well and is working hard for the membership. As the Fund continues to grow it enables us the opportunity, when needed, to target larger jobs that in the past we may not have been able to make much of an impact on. With the amount of work we have enjoyed it also affords us the ability to target projects with more of a strategic plan in place as opposed to just trying to secure any work available. The Target Fund is a great resource to have access to. Being able to utilize the Fund to secure work for Local 441’s membership is an example of the vision and foresight this local has had in the past to make sure the future is bright for those that followed.  
The Death Benefit Fund Committee reviewed the Fund and has recommended to the membership to continue with the $3,500 benefit while keeping the assessment amount at $3.00 per death. This is a benefit that is much appreciated by the families of our Brothers and Sisters that have passed and is an opportunity for the membership to come together and provide a little less financial worry for those families during this difficult time. Rate increases are due in each Zone effective June 1st. Throughout the month of May we will be conducting Special Order of Business meetings independently in each Zone so the membership can determine how the increases to each total packages will be allocated. Postcards will be sent out to each member with information illustrating the result of the allocations.  

We have continued to work toward making available to the membership the ability to make dues, death benefit and initiation payments online via our Local 441 website. By mid to late June each member will be receiving a letter containing information illustrating how to access their personal account by way of a secure link. Once logged on to your individual account, members will be able to submit payment using a credit card or debit card. Members already have the ability to call into the Hall and make payments over the phone utilizing a credit card or debit card. The ability to do this through a secure link from our website should increase efficiency and also prove to be more convenient for the membership.  

As 2014’s political session wraps up, the primary focus for Local 441 has been the upcoming Kansas Gubernatorial race. Thank you to all the members that have stepped up and are helping with any of the various campaigns in their areas and statewide. I also want to extend a special thank you to Kansas City Pipefitters Local 533 Business Manager Scott Grandon. Without exception, any time I have contacted Scott to strategize about the upcoming elections or to seek his help he has responded with support. I consider Scott a close friend that stems from Local 441’s and Local 533’s working relationship. There is mutual benefit gained from the potential strengths and influences available from each Local.  

In closing, I would like to congratulate all who were nominated for the various Local Union offices. Ballots will be mailed out on May 16th. Please take the time to mark your ballot and mail it back before the deadline. Remember, every vote counts and I would encourage each member to exercise your right as a union member. It is up to you to determine the future of your local. Please continue to work smart, work safe, and may God bless you and your families.

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Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Health and Welfare Plan of Kansas
Best Doctors Critical Care Component

We have communicated to you in the past about the Best Doctors program for day-to-day and ongoing medical issues to which you need answers, assistance, doctor referrals or a second opinion. We are now able to add the final piece – possibly the most important piece – which is critical care.

When it comes to life-threatening injury or illness we all hope and pray that we are one of the lucky ones. That neither we nor our dependents ever have a need for immediate and critical care. Yet, at some point most of us do experience such events. Usually we are at a loss. A family member is either critically injured in an accident or has been diagnosed with a life threatening illness. Most of us feel at a loss at such times. Hospitals, doctors and other medical care providers are asking us to make decisions about treatment. We really don’t have a clue, so it is a race to the internet to try and research the illness or the treatment. We then discover that for every opinion there is an opposite and conflicting opinion on treatment. If you are like us, you are then at a complete loss.

How can we make these life or death decisions? We have not been trained, nor do we have the time or even a basic understanding of the options. If we are lucky, we may know someone that is a nurse or a doctor and is a friend of the family, but without a study of the case history, how can these trained and capable friends really help? In truth, you are on your own. Now you will have another option.

Through your Local 441 Health and Welfare Fund, the Trustees are offering an alternative through BEST DOCTORS CRITICAL CARE program. As with all Best Doctor Services, there is no cost directly to you if you decide to take advantage of this Critical Care Program.

BEST DOCTORS CRITICAL CARE

Get the advice of an expert after a serious accident or catastrophic medical event. When you’re in the hospital because of a serious accident or severe medical event, the decisions about your care can be a matter of life or death. Make sure those decisions are the right ones – with Best Doctors Critical Care.

All it takes is one phone call. We’ll immediately put your case in the hands of a leading medical expert. The Best Doctors expert will review your case in detail and share his or her recommendations within 48-72 hours. In addition, if needed, we send a Best Doctors nurse on-site to help coordinate care locally. Together, your doctor and ours will collaborate to ensure you have the right care at the right time, reducing your hospital stay and speeding your recovery.

THE SUPPORT OF A CRITICAL CARE EXPERT WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST!

With Best Doctors, you can draw on the expertise of leading critical care experts for acute medical events resulting in admission to the ER, ICU or NICU, such as:

• Traumas to multiple organs and/or body systems
• Complications from the premature birth of a child
• Spinal cord injuries
• Traumatic brain injuries
• Severe burns
• Sepsis
• Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) and Acute Lung Injury (ALI)

CALL ON US WHEN MEDICAL EXPERTISE IS CRITICAL.

No one likes to think about a serious accident or traumatic medical event. But if one occurs, make sure you and your family do what’s best. Contact Best Doctors at 1-866-904-0910.

The Health and Welfare Office will be sending to you more information about this program in the future.

Sincerely yours,

The Trustees

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CRITICAL CARE CRISIS?

CALL BEST DOCTORS AT 1-866-904-0910

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org
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:
June 9, July 14, August 11

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,
423 W. Maple, Wichita.
Note: All retirees and spouses and former members’ widows
are welcome to attend any of the area meetings.

2014 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
Monday, May 26th
Memorial Day Holiday
Friday, July 4th
Independence Day Holiday
Monday, September 1st
Labor Day Holiday
Thursday, November 27th
Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Friday, November 28th
Day After Thanksgiving Holiday
Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Holiday
(Zones IB, IIA, IIB)
Thursday, December 25th
Christmas Day Holiday
(All zones unless noted otherwise.)

Find us on while you’re on-the-go!
Use your QR Reader
to log on to
UA441.org!
It’s a free app for
most devices.

Contacts
Wichita (316) 265–4291 Training (316) 267–8508
Topeka (785) 354–8539
Lawrence (785) 843–3151
Frontenac (620) 231–4280

Local Union 441 Website: www.ua441.org
PPATKS (Training) Website: www.ppatsks.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 (316) 264–2339 or (800) 423–6517

Kansas Annuity (620) 232–3799

United Association Website: www.UA.org

Ben Newhouse is Local 441’s Independent Financial Advisor.

Members, please feel free to give him a call at (855) 369-7100
assistance and advice with your Mass Mutual investment account.

Local 441 now can accept credit card payments. Forms of payment we can now
accept are: cash, check, money order, Visa, Mastercard and Discover.

I’m a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.
—Thomas Jefferson

Administrative Change for Submitting Plan Forms
Due to legal problems we have experienced, the Fund Office will no longer accept facsimile transfers (faxes) of Plan
Forms or .pdf files for the Plumbing and Pipefitting Health and Welfare Plan of Kansas (H&W) or our Pension Plans, the
Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Retirement Plan of Kansas (KSR) and the Local 441 Plumbers and Pipefitters Retire-
ment Plan (LP).

As an example, for H&W Plan, Vision Forms, Disability Forms, Subscriber Update Forms all must be completed in ink
and have the original signature of the Participant. This is also true for KSR and LP Pension Plan Beneficiary Forms,
Application Forms, Enrollment Forms and the KSR Elective Deferral Change Forms. All must be completed in ink and
have the original signature of the Participant and be mailed or delivered to the Fund Office in Wichita or to C&J Benefit
Solutions in Frontenac, Kansas.

In truth, sometimes a fax is almost impossible to read and we have had cases where someone other than the Participant
signs the Forms, which has resulted in our making changes not truly authorized by the Participants. We then find it very
difficult or impossible to pursue legal remedies for what most would consider fraud.

We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause the few Participants that do fax Forms to us or to Local 441, but on
the advice of Counsel this seems to be the safest course for our Plans. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,
Joe Pucci, Administrator

Make sure you’re registered to vote! Questions? Go to SedgwickCounty.org/elections
LU441 Apprentices Attend Statewide Competition

Training

It is a very busy time of year in the Local 441 training department. On April 15, 2014, we started interviews for our 2014-2015 apprenticeship class. We have had a record number of applications this year from throughout the state and we are hoping to take in as many or more than last years.

On Saturday, April 12, 2014, we held our statewide apprentice contest. The apprentices that won our state contest will be representing 441 at the District 4 contest in Chicago at LU 597. They are: Brent Eisenbarth-HVAC; Charles Maxey-pipefitter; Mike Weisbender-plumber; and Nate Handley-welder. These fine young men will work very hard to represent our membership. We also had a large amount of material and prizes donated from our contractors and supply houses for our contest. Please remember these suppliers when ordering materials for projects. Please call the training office for a list of suppliers that support us.

Last October, I filed for a training department grant with the UA, and on April 11, 2014, I finally had the grant review with the UA. We asked for a wide variety of equipment from new welding technologies equipment and machines to pipe machines, CAD computers and software, to material for building our own HVAC trainers. We were approved and the grant value should exceed $250,000 in new equipment for our training centers.

Thanks to the support of our training staff, our Business Manager Richard Taylor, and our UA International Rep Mike O’Mara, we should receive this new training equipment around the first part of June. Brothers and Sisters, this grant money is only available to us through the UA $0.10 cent training fund contributed on our benefit side of our hours worked. Please remember we train every day with our work ethics and attitude.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me at the training center office, 316-267-8508.

Michael J. Magennis, Training Director

LU441 Member’s Unique Undertaking

Local 441 member Dave Jellison has collected stickers from UA unions across the nation. He displays the stickers on a shape of the USA that he cut out of metal. Stop by the Topeka Training Center and enjoy the results of Jellison’s handiwork in the meeting room. Thanks to all the locals that helped Dave by sending stickers!