Business Manager’s Report

Investing in Training

One of the most important aspects of our Local Union that has always been front and center during my time as Business Manager is our Training Program. Training is an area that we have constantly sought to improve. We have always been proactive in providing the best training this local is capable of producing. Looking back over the years, there have been many stages as we have strived to improve, grow, and expand our training potential. We have made adjustments to meet the demands of our industry and the needs of our contractors and at the same time improve the method used to deliver this training to Local 441 Apprentices and Journeymen. The latest improvement is the completion of a major upgrade to the Wichita Training Facility, which included expanding the facility by over 4,000 sq. ft (see page 4). In addition we are also on track to upgrade the Topeka Training Facility starting spring of 2016.

Across the state, you as members of Local 441 have shown your support for the common good of this local. You have stood firm and united, and now, through your perseverance, we continue on the path to a strong and bright future. As a result of this, the expense for both projects listed above has been achieved without requiring additional funding by the membership. Due to the abundance of work in 2013 and 2014 and the abundance of hours worked by the membership, our funds have seen a substantial increase while keeping operating expenses down. This has allowed us an opportunity to invest in our local union.

These upgrades will help to ensure that our apprentices and journeymen receive training for the newest innovations in the industry. Training has always been the backbone of the United Association, and these upgrades will add to the ability of our instructors to maintain that record of excellence. Thank you to the membership for your willingness to push forward for the common good. As we look to the future, we will continue to embrace our role in providing a skilled and highly trained workforce which provides value to our local union, to our contractors, and to our industry for this generation and future generations to follow.

Our budget for training reached $1.5 million this past school year and that does not include the $203,000 grant from the UA for new training equipment and hardware. Very few organizations make that kind of an investment in training. We are on course to making Local 441 and our contractors ready for the challenges ahead. I look forward to these challenges because I know we have the membership that can overcome them and continue to rise to the top of our industry. As General President Billy Hite has stated…"It really all comes down to three major things: competency through superior training…being the most competitive in the market…and having a commitment to excellence at every level at all times."

[Business Managers Report, cont’d on page 6]
Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

WORK OUTLOOK

I don’t have to tell you that the work has slowed. It is especially rough on the apprentices.

The first quarter of the year was excellent and we had nearly 240 travelers in the state. When the work started coming down, it fell like a rock. And if that wasn’t enough, the Brownback administration has made it tougher than ever to draw unemployment.

With that being said, our contractors are bidding work throughout the state and hopefully they are successful, otherwise it could be a slow winter. Looking ahead, next year looks very good with the Westar plants and the NBAF project in Manhattan.

We have excellent relations with all the surrounding locals and if they need travelers we will get a call. When our Local had full employment and we needed more manpower, we helped our sister locals first. That’s just the way it works.

I want to thank the membership for approving the remodel of the hall to accommodate the growing number of apprentices. That is an investment for the future of the local and something we should be very proud of. Training is what separates us from the nonunion.

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

Manhattan/Fort Riley Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Congratulations to our new journeyman members graduating from apprenticeship and the new Local 441 apprentices beginning their career in the piping industry. I encourage and hope that each of you actively participate in Local Union #441. Meetings are the second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Work for Local #441 members has slowed considerably in this area. The KSU Stadium Project and the NBAF Central Utility Plant Project have been completed with US Engineering. After years of waiting, we look forward to working with US Engineering on the main NBAF Lab Project.

Work on the Fort Riley School and KSU Engineering Projects are winding down with Kruse Corporation. The Mid-American Water & Plumbing’s Hanger Project is winding down as most work on Fort Riley is decreasing. Unfair Contractors have been successful in securing three large projects at KSU recently, while our “Fair Contractors” aggressively attempt to increase our “market share.”

Participating in the political process is extremely important to Local 441 membership. Working men and women are under attack by many existing politicians and candidates. Please support your Local 441 PAC Fund to help defeat our enemies.

I’ll take this opportunity to thank our signatory contractors for pursuing work in this area and thanks to all the brothers and sisters that work in the area.

Everyone work safe and I hope to see you at the upcoming picnics.

Fraternally,
Phil Petty (785) 640-6151
Organizer/Business Representative

Working, For a Better Life.

Labor Day honors the incredible achievements of America’s working people and celebrates those who make our country run. As the years progresses, we must truly consider what strengthens our families and communities and take a look at how public policies have deliberately diminished working peoples’ ability to sustain a good living and driven our economy out of balance.

Working people are the backbone of our nation and need to be recognized as such, both in word and deed. Too often, those working every day for a better life are forced to take a back seat to corporate interests which care only about their own bottom line.

Workers everywhere are standing up and speaking out for fundamental, lasting change regardless of whether they work in manufacturing, engineering, service or retail. Every day, working people use their talent, dedication and drive to make our nation stronger. This Labor Day should be a celebration of working families, because we are ready to speak up together, change the rules and bring lasting economic balance so that every family can pursue the American Dream and work for a better life.

We ask all working families to highlight the single greatest thing that unites us—“Working. For a Better Life”— and to join the push for a fairer and more just economy. Text “LABOR” to 235246 with YOUR union insight!


Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org

LOCAL UNION #441
Officers, Committee and Staff
John Shepherd Jr., President
Jerry Short, Vice President
Richard L. Taylor, Business Manager
and Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Nicholas Rhodes, Recording Secretary
Jade Killgore, Sergeant-at-Arms

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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.
Brian Burnett (316) 210-3998
Dan McCulloch (785) 286-0774
Jerry Short (316) 733-9511

Obama Marks Labor Day
by Extending Paid Leave for Federal Contractors

Showing solidarity with workers on Labor Day, President Barack Obama signed an executive order requiring paid sick leave for employees of federal contractors, including 300,000 who currently receive none.

The White House would not specify the cost to federal contractors to implement the executive order, which Obama detailed in a speech to a major union rally and breakfast in Boston on Monday, Sept. 7. The Labor Department said any costs would be offset by savings contractors would see as a result of lower attrition rates and increased worker loyalty, but produced nothing to back that up.

Under the executive order, employees working on federal contracts will gain the right to a minimum of one hour of paid leave for every 30 hours they work. Stretched over 12 months, that will add up to seven days a year. The order will allow employees to use the leave for sick relatives, and will affect contracts starting in 2017 – just as Obama leaves office.

The Obama administration has been working on the executive order for months, and chose Labor Day to announce it as the president seeks to enact what policies he can before his presidency ends, despite resistance in Congress to laws he has proposed to improve workplace conditions.
Topeka/Lawrence Area

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Many of you are aware by now that work has slowed a bit since this Spring. We have successfully completed a bunch of projects. We also have some jobs winding down at this time: KU School of Business; Stormont Vail Orthopedic Clinic; Lawrence and Topeka Schools; KBI; and Cair Parevel Latin School. There are a few jobs we can look forward to in the area: Washburn Dining and Dorms; Stormont Vail South Topeka Clinic; and a few more school projects later. The projects have been trending down for most of this summer and the outlook looks the same.

As of this Newsletter we haven’t received much solid info on the new Mars expansion. Mars has hired a “non-union” General Contractor for this project, so very little info has been getting to any of the Building Trades Locals in Northeast Kansas.

Many of our members have inquired about future work at our Westar sites. Right now it looks like the next big project will be some Coal Pipe work this coming Spring. We have been told that it will be Day and Nightshift work with an aggressive time schedule. Reminder: You will need to be Powersafe Certified or recertified to work on any Westar Powerhouse. Our members need to also have a Signal Person/Rigging qualification. We have a class set up for September 16th, 18th and 20th here at the Topeka Training Center. Most of our recent and current Journeypersons have this certification. If you don’t, please call PPTAKS and register for the class. We can schedule future classes this Fall and Winter if you can’t attend the September Class.

Paul Miller will be conducting a Med Gas class in September on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Whether you need the full 40 hour class, or an update class, call PPTAKS and get registered. As always, we will have CEU classes scheduled for October and November for both Plumbing and Mechanical classes. Please check the PPTAKS website for the final schedule.

I encourage all of our members to utilize our Topeka Training Center weld shop. I can open it for you and all it takes is a phone call to me or to PPTAKS. The Training Center is yours to use and I will keep it stocked and ready for use.

The remodel for the Zone 2 Training Center should get started this winter after the CEU classes are finished. The sale of our Lawrence property is in its last phase and should be final in December.

Fraternally yours,

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

Local 441 Kansas Golf Tournament 2015 Nets $5000 for Scholarship Fund!

Thirty-five teams competed in the Local 441 Golf Tournament held Saturday, June 13 at the Sand Creek Station Golf Course in Newton, KS. The participation and generosity of golfers allowed us to forward proceeds of $5005.41 to the UA Scholarship Fund!

Frontenac Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As we enter into Fall, we are seeing a down turn of work in the southeast Kansas area. Riverton has started layoffs of manpower. There was some remarkable work completed on this project, with great craftsmanship, which only helps with all the future work at the Empire facility.

The Coffeyville turnaround with CTS should start as you receive this newsletter. As I am writing this, I am not sure of the number of manpower. I hope to find out very soon.

Richland Mechanical is picking up more work in Baxter Springs and Oswego. Tank Connection just released more tanks for the piping crews. At this time, we have replaced the non-union piping contractor with Richland.

Great job men!

Jobs we are looking at in southeast Kansas are the following projects:

- Casino project in Pittsburg
- Hospital addition in Chanute
- Gas turbine installation in Coffeyville
- Work within the Coffeyville Refinery
- Fort Scott School addition

Please don’t forget the Picnic for the Frontenac area is October 10th at the Union Hall, 103 Mendicki Dr, Frontenac, Ks. SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!

I hope this newsletter finds each of you happy and healthy please be SAFE. As always, do not hesitate to contact me at any time should you need to.

Best wishes!

Fraternally Yours,

Mike Wolownik (620) 231-4280
Frontenac Business Representative – Zone 1B
Upgrades to the natural gas-fired power plant in Riverton located in southeast Kansas. LU 441 member Ray McCorgary is the project’s General Foreman.

441-Sponsored Ferguson in Third!
The Local 441 logo is a blur as Kyah Ferguson races her bike around the Mo-Kan Dragway in Asbury, MO.

Kyah, who lives in Girard, KS, just turned 17 in June and is third in points in the motorcycle category of the MO-KAN circuit. In a sport still predominantly male, she is having a blast sporting the 441 art and hopes to continue her relationship next year when jumps into the rear-engine alcohol dragster.

[Thanks to Aaren Marshall, LU 441, for sharing this item.]
For more: www.mokandragway.com/drag_101/
Upgrades to 441 Training Center

McConnell
Hangar construction for the new fleet of KC-46A tankers to be stationed at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, KS.
Training

August and September starts the new school year and we will start the year with 209 apprentices after turning out 29 new journeymen on September 1. The apprentices will start this year out in our newly renovated school, thanks to the approval for funding from the members of our local.

The training department will have continuing education classes starting in September that will continue through the end of the year for plumbing and mechanical license requirements. The only class that we have scheduled right now is the Rigging and Hand Signal Person Qualification. This class is scheduled to start on September 16. Please sign up as this is a mandatory qualification to perform any rigging and hand signaling on Westar projects, and it will also be a requirement on the NBAF project in Manhattan, KS. The NBAF job will also require Medical Gas certification.

The code has changed once again and the training department will offer the updated test as soon as it becomes available. In addition, at least one of the following welding certifications will be required: UA 21, UA22, UA41, UA60, or UA61. Others might be accepted, but we are waiting to hear from the contractor. Certified UA18A welders will also be needed. If you have this certification and it is expired, please make arrangements with the training department for a new test. We may schedule a training class if we have enough interest from the membership.

We have UA weld testing scheduled every Friday at the Wichita Training Center and as needed, on Saturdays, at the Topeka and Frontenac Training Centers; if you are interested or need to keep up your certification, please call the training center to schedule.

I would also like to thank the journeymen and women of Local Union 441, once again, for the approval of the funding for the remodeling that was done on the Wichita and Topeka Training Centers.

Remember that you, as journeymen, set an example every day for our apprentices with your work ethic and your attitude.

Michael J. Magennis, Training Director
Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. —Albert Camus

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.” —Albert Camus
Retiree Recognition
Years of Service Pins and Certificates

Retirees met for recognition and awards banquets in May to celebrate their many years of commitment and dedication.

James Zahourek (65)
James Barnes (60)
William Holcomb Sr. (60)
RC Schreck (60)

K. Wayne Cyr (55)
John Heim (55)
Douglas Bass (50)
Fred Jarvis Sr. (50)
Roy Halverstadt (50)
Wesley Jackson Jr. (50)

Walter Lickteig (50)
Delmar Rockers (50)
Louis Eakes (45)
Robert Haskell (45)
David Staley (45)
Steven Wingert (45)

Willard Burns (40)
George Lee Jr. (40)
Michael Pray (40)
Brad Bell (40)
David Hacker (35)
Melvin Alderson Jr. (25)
Michael A. Teter (25)

GENERAL PRESIDENT HITE’S LABOR DAY MESSAGE 9.5.15
A Special Message from General President Hite to all members of the United Association

As we celebrate Labor Day in the United States and Canada, we remember the critical role that working people have played throughout history, and honor those early pioneers of the labor movement who risked their lives to fight for fair wages, safe working conditions and retirement security.

To these labor heroes we owe a debt of gratitude that we can never truly repay.

On this day, we also recognize the contributions that working people make each and every day to our nations’ prosperity. While there is much work to be done in protecting workers and their families from assaults by those determined to lower their wages and reduce their rights, we can be incredibly proud of what we have accomplished in recent years.

Nearly every new advancement and protection on the books is there because hardworking men and women – including UA members – joined together.

This year, let us continue to stand beside our brothers and sisters in the fight for good, safe jobs.

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org