LU 441 Represented at National Conference

Labor members and contractors representing Local 441's Joint Apprenticeship Training Program attended the North American Pipe Trades Conference held in San Francisco in June 2009.

Left-Right: Mike Amst, UA Training Director; Bill Utton, 441 Dispatcher; Rick Drinnen, 441 Contractor; Bill Hite, UA General President; Jerry Stine, 441 Training Director.

REMINDER!

You should have recently received a mailing regarding a new benefit for Local 441 members. This is sponsored by Local 441 and American Income Life. Please take the time and return the postcard for this Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit.

Business Manager's Report

My last article in this newsletter primarily focused on the state of the economy. The preceding months have been difficult for many of our Brothers and Sisters along with the continued effort by our signatory contractors to procure work. The last quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009 were two of the worst quarters, in terms of the economy and the stock market, experienced over the last several decades. There are, however, many signs on the horizon that we have reached the bottom and are starting to inch back up. The rebound experienced in the second quarter of 2009 was recorded as one of the best in several decades and showed strong returns for investors. Although the market is still considered to be very volatile, this does in my opinion show some renewed confidence in the turnaround of the economy.

In addition to many projects starting to surface due to President Obama’s Stimulus Plan, we are also seeing several new projects coming out for bid and many being planned for the near future such as the Wichita Airport Terminal Expansion, the Siemens Wind Turbine Plant to be built in Hutchinson, the Bio-Science Facility in Manhattan, Scrubber upgrades for Tecumseh and Lawrence Power Plants, and many other large projects. Another positive point is that any project that does have stimulus money attached to it will be required to be built under Davis Beacon Prevailing Wage rates. For instance, many of the school projects coming out for bid across the state will have their bonds backed by stimulus money which will require Davis Bacon on those projects. Many of the communities around the state are taking advantage of stimulus money for public projects that have been held off due to funding shortfalls such as fire stations or upgrades to their water, sewer, and gas utilities. All this is work that our contractors should be able to competitively bid due to the requirement for Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage rates.

A huge victory for Local 441 and all the Building Trades was the passage of legislation this past political session which now allows the Holcomb Power Plant Expansion Project to go forward, and it will be a Union Built Project. This has been a long and tough battle that would not have been possible to win without the efforts of all Local 441 Members and the many

Upcoming Area Picnics - Mark Your Calendar!

**WICHITA AREA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009**

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Blvd
Wichita, Kansas

**FRONTENAC AREA**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009**

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lincoln Park Shelter #3,
Pittsburg, Kansas
(W 12th & 69 Bypass,
go east one block at Lincoln Park)

**TOPEKA & LAWRENCE AREA**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009**

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)
Apprentice Contest a Success and Learning Experience

By Kerry Stine, Director, PPATKS

The Region 4 Apprentice Contest was held at Pipefitters Local 597 training center in Mokena, Illinois, June 10-12, 2009. The State of Kansas and Local 441 had four apprentices representing it in the contest. These apprentices were chosen at state competitions that were held in Wichita and Topeka. The contestants were: Steve Wherrell-Plumbing; Chris Chambers-HVAC; John Adams-Pipefitter; and Johnny Curl-Welder. Local 441 apprentices faced competition from all over Region 4, which includes Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. The abilities, appearance and professionalism of the Local 441 apprentices made a very good impression on the judges and the host local, especially since it was our first attempt at a state or regional contest. Unfortunately, none of our apprentices finished in the top three in any of the categories, but a wealth of information was gained to prepare for next year’s competition.

The State Competitions held in Topeka and Wichita were a great success and proved to be very good preparation for the Regional contest. Rick Salyer, Brian Burnett, Steve Ridgeway, Shaun O’Keefe, Dave Jellison, and Dan McCulloch headed up the Plumbing and HVAC contests in Topeka. Those competing in the Plumbing Competition were: T.J. Ayon Jr.; Kirk Miller, Jr.; and Steve Wherrell.

HVAC competitors were: Chris Chambers; Mike McPike; Clint Thompson; and Alex Wilson.

The Apprentices were tested in their brazing, troubleshooting, and construction abilities. Judges in Topeka were: Bob Collard (retired) and Jeff Roman, Braek & Associates.

Mike Magennis, Bill Urton and John Shepherd, Jr. headed up the Welding and Pipefitting competition in Wichita. Welding and Pipefitter competitors were: John Adams; Kevin Cooper; Ryan Cryderman; Johnny Curl; Colin Hearrell; and Mike Teter.

Apprentices were tested in their Welding and Pipefitting skills. Judges in Wichita were: Clyde Henson, Piping & Equipment; Bob Phillips, Oxy Chemical; and Mike Adams, NCRA.

All the competitions were very close and the projects that the apprentices faced prepared them well for the regional competition.

The apprentices were rewarded for their success with prizes donated by the following:

- **MKS of Kansas City**
- **Mid States of Kansas City**
- **Hill & Co. of Topeka**
- **Neenans of Topeka**
- **Miller Electric-Ted Drower**
- **PPATKS**

Local 441

Tools and materials required for each competition were loaned or provided by the following:

- **Piping and Equipment Co.**
  - McElroy’s
- **P1 Group**
  - Central Air Conditioning Co.
- **Johnson Controls Inc.**
  - American Mechanical Inc.
- **Waldinger Co.**
  - Plumbing by Carlson

The 441 apprentices attending the Regional Contest were provided jeans and shirts identifying them with PPATKS and Local 441. Due to Local 441 being primarily a statewide local, 441 had more apprentices attending the Regional contest than any other local, with the exception of Sprinklerfitter Local 669 which could have an apprentice from every state. Many gifts were showered on all the contestants with the ultimate reward being an all-expense-paid trip to compete in the National Apprentice Contest at Ann Arbor, MI on August 9-14.

Many lessons were learned and valuable information was acquired to help prepare for the competitions next year. I was very pleased by the efforts put forth by all who were a part of the competitions, especially those who set up and coordinated each event. Please be sure to congratulate and thank those involved when the opportunity arises.

Laughter is to life what shock absorbers are to automobiles. It won’t take the potholes out of the road, but it sure makes the ride smoother.

- Barbara Johnson

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org
Owen Bell, 88, died March 27, 2009. Most recently of Sulphur, Ok. Brother in good standing for 47 years.

Harold Burns, 81, died May 31, 2009. Most recently of Cherokee, KS. Brother in good standing for 40 years.

Gregg Desch, 48, died May 17, 2009. Most recently of Topeka, KS. Brother in good standing for 11 years.

Gerald McEachern, 65, died May 18, 2009. Most recently of El Dorado, KS. Brother in good standing for 40 years.

Dean Means, 70, died May 12, 2009. Most recently of Grove, Ok. Brother in good standing for 50 years.

Nick Speck, 79, died April 27, 2009. Most recently of Wichita, KS. Brother in good standing for 52 years.

Mike Sporn, 44, died May 30, 2009. Most recently of Wichita, KS. Brother in good standing for 8 years.

Bernard Vande Velde, 77, died May 28, 2009. Most recently of Topeka, KS. Brother in good standing for 48 years.

Robert Nelson, 77, died July 12, 2009. Most recently of Manhattan, KS. Brother in good standing for 53 years.

Topeka Area East

Brothers and Sisters,

This recession has put us in very hard times. A lot of brothers are very lucky not to miss any work while others have been on the list a very long time. These brothers are losing benefits and suffering along the way. For those brothers in a position to help, please consider putting someone to work who has been on the list a long time instead of someone that is not also on the list. A lot of apprentices won’t have the hours to advance also. Please try to help out brothers in need any way possible.

On another note, help us out with rumors and leads of jobs in remote locations as early as possible. We’ll run down the details and get fair shops to bid on them. A lot of these jobs don’t hit large print rooms and only local news outlets.

On a brighter note I have seen more bidding activity in the area and we’re getting some success on the bids.

Fraternally yours,

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

Wichita Area Zone 1A

Local #441 Brothers and Sisters:

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.

Work in the area has been thin to say the least. Members who have been steadily employed should consider themselves blessed as many are feeling the pains of the recession or depression as I feel the case is. There have been no projects taking off at a great pace, however the Via Christi NW Hospital has been hiring as of late. The rest of our contractor base are doing their best to maintain the workers they currently have to the best of their abilities. With the heat comes the need for more HVAC technicians and we have seen some of our techs back to work after the lull of the spring season.

Industrial work is slow; however, Piping and Equipment has had a crew working at Frontier Refinery. This facility used to be a mainstay for our members, and we hope our performance there will bring more work in the future. Piping and Equipment has also had about 30 members working in McPherson at NCRA for a number of months. The refinery has quite a turnaround and expansion schedule and we hope to take advantage of every opportunity offered in that plant.

In addition, Central Air Conditioning secured projects at Larned State Hospital and the Boot Hill Casino in Dodge City, both jobs tightly bid by both union and non-union contractors. In the near future, we are looking at the Siemens plant to be built in Hutchinson, a new airport terminal in Wichita, and the casino in Sumner County. In conclusion, our work has been slow for nearly nine months, but we shall stand together and secure our futures with craftsmanship and diligence.

I want to thank everyone for your 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 focused upon educating non-members as to organize a non-union contractor. This is 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 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.

The Wichita Area picnic will be on September 19 this year at the Sedgwick County Zoo, and I hope to see a large turnout. More picnic information will be coming in the near future.

The Wichita/Hutchinson Labor Federation, in conjunction with the Machinists, will be having a Labor Day Celebration again this year on Saturday, September 5. The event will include a car show, poker run, and cookout from noon to 4 p.m. All union members and families are invited to attend and celebrate the great Labor Day.

Once again, thank you for your hard work and perseverance. If anyone has any questions or comments, please don’t hesitate to call me anytime.

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

Lawrence Area

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Greetings from Lawrence. Work is holding steady and some projects in the Zone IIA area are:
Midwest-Allen Field House;
Lexington Plumbing at Jayhawk Towers; P1 is finishing up their project at Allen Field House and also working at Berry Plastics-ICI, North & South tunnels at KU, day and night shift in the fab shop, and the Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Other jobs in progress are the Haskell College remodel, KU hotel and numerous other small jobs. Work at Taylor Forge in Greeley holding steady.

A job was well done by all the apprentices who competed in the local and regional contest. Everyone who participated did very well for our first time competing. Again, a great job!

Hoping everyone has a great summer enjoying some extra time with family and friends.

Fraternally yours,

Brother Dennis Wittman (785) 843-3151
Lawrence Business Representative
930 E. 28th Street Lawrence, KS 66046

Kansas Direct Pipeline

“Four for One”

Official monthly 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

Job Hotline: (316) 269-2472
Mid-American Water & Plumbing -- WELCOME!

Mid-American Water & Plumbing management with reps from 441, Bill Urton, 441 Dispatcher; Slick Cansler; Pat Heptig; Paul Goscha; Dane Boyd; Owner Bruce Ewing; Jeff Young; Phil Petty, Business Rep; and Richard Taylor, LU441 Business Manager.

Current employees of Mid-American Water & Plumbing, organized as new 441 members: [l-r] Harvey Kling, Duane DeVries, Irven Shorman, George Foxworth, Kenny Hopper, Kendall Worrel, Joe Montoya, Michael Jordan, Donald George, Steven Breeze, Justin Shepard, Corey Kraus, John Urban. Not shown: Cliff Bammes, Ron Blodgett, Bradley Cyr, Kyle Davis, Carlos Gutierrez, Bishop Jackson II, Daniel Korp, Walter Proudfoot, Lloyd Slawson, Mike Weisbender III.

New members sworn in by 441 President Jerry Short

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org
Local 441 State and Regional Apprentice Contest

Welder Johnny Curl competed at the regional contest held in Chicago. Johnny was the top finisher in the Welding category at the state level.

Welder and Pipefitter Apprentice competitors in the state contest:
Colin Hearrell, Kevin Cooper, Mike Teter, Instructor Mike Magennis, Johnny Curl, John Adams and Ryan Cryderman.

Pipefitter John Adams competed at the regional contest held in Chicago. John was the top finisher in the pipefitting category at the state level.

Contestants at the regional event in Chicago were required to complete written tests as well as hands-on tests.

Plumbing and HVAC Apprentice competitors in the state contest:

Plumber Steve Wherrell competing at the regional contest held in Chicago. Steve was the top finisher in the plumbing category at the state level.

HVAC Service Tech Chris Chambers competing at the regional contest held in Chicago. Chris was the top finisher in the HVAC category at the state level.
Topeka Area West

LOCAL #441 WELCOMES MID-AMERICAN WATER & PLUMBING INC.!

[See page 4 for related photos]

Mid-American Water & Plumbing Inc. became signatory to Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union #441's Collective Bargaining Agreement May 1, 2009. All 23 Plumbers and Pipefitters employed with Mid-American Water & Plumbing Inc. (MAWP) have become members of Local Union #441.

Mid-American Water & Plumbing Inc. is located in Manhattan, Kansas where it originated as a home-based business in 1987, started by Bruce Ewing. The company was incorporated on March 30, 1990.

In 1992, Mid-American Water & Plumbing Inc. hired a few employees and entered the world of government contracting by working with a General Contractor on the JOC at Fort Riley, Kansas. Mid-American is proud to have also worked successfully with each succeeding General Contractor on the JOC at Fort Riley since that time. Mid-American has also performed work at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Fort Leonardwood, Missouri; Fort Benning, Georgia; and Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Mid-American Water & Plumbing, along with their U.A. Sub-Contractor, Environmental Mechanical, recently completed a Barracks Project and Bed-down facility at Fort Riley, Kansas.

In addition to working on Government contracts, Mid-American Water & Plumbing Inc. has successfully completed a large variety of remodel, repair and new construction projects for educational facilities, private businesses and government agencies throughout Kansas. Plumbing, HVAC, Solar, water purification, boiler replacement, cooling tower repairs and replacements, and refrigeration are a sample of the type work Mid-American performs.

I was Kansas Pipe Trades Organizer when I first sat down with Bruce Ewing over 10 years ago and discussed Mid-American Water & Plumbing signing a collective bargaining agreement. We met numerous times and worked out the details all the way to the point of signing the agreement and I couldn’t close the deal. Bruce just wasn’t ready. Bruce had plans for Mid-American Water & Plumbing and was unsure that we could allow him the flexibility he may need.

The last 10 years I have seen Mid-American Water & Plumbing Inc. build a team of hard-working and dedicated employees. I witnessed Mid-American evolve into a very aggressive and successful bidder on a wide variety of projects.

Because of this, I was enthusiastic at a breakfast meeting in March of this year when Bruce informed me he would like me to meet with Mid-American Water & Plumbing’s management team. Mid-American’s management was considering the possibility of becoming a union contractor. Bruce had with him two pages of questions and concerns that we reviewed that morning and I would need to address at the meeting.

The meeting with Mid-American management led to numerous meetings and telephone conversations on almost a daily basis. Many of the issues that Bruce had considered obstacles in the past were addressed by the current agreement, such as the Journeyman to Apprentice ratio and freedom of movement. Still, two pages of questions and concerns seemed to grow and lead to more detailed issues to be addressed.

I made a commitment to Mid-American President, Bruce Ewing, that Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union #441 would address every question and concern, honestly and to our best ability.

In return Bruce Ewing made the commitment to address any increased cost due to an agreement to the best of his ability, and to consider a possible agreement as an opportunity, and not just a burden.

I continue to meet that commitment, thanks to the help of Business Manager Richard Taylor, all of Local #441 Staff, Administrator Joe Pucci and Staff at the H&W office; William T. Sweeney, Jr. and Staff at the National Pension Office; along with Training Coordinator Kerry Stine and Staff at the Training Department.

Frontenac Area

Brothers and Sisters:
The signing of the two-year Contract in Zone 1B is as follows: $1.50-06/01/2009; $1.80-06/01/2010. The $1.50 was allocated as, $0.20 Health & Welfare, $0.30 Local Pension, and $1.00 KSR (which is the Annuity). This will help with the pro-rata on the money that is divided.

When you are traveling in other Locals, the benefits for pensions are sent to the UA, 45.70% stays with the UA Pension, and 54.30% is sent back to the home Local. With the new rates effective 06/01/2009, 63.4146% goes in the Local Pension, and 36.5854% goes in the KSR/Annuity. This only pertains to Frontenac Zone 1B. Please call me if you have any questions.

Right now in southeast Kansas, the work is still slow. But there is some work bidding soon ... and hopefully, in our favor. I have been tracking the Stimulus Money sent to Kansas, primarily on the university level. Tracking the money will help the bidding process. Any money used on a project whether if it is 1% or 100%, will fall under the Davis-Bacon Act. Also, I am still working on the Independence School Project, which will bid later this summer or in the fall of this year. We are having some luck getting new contractors to bid work in this area.

Fraternally Yours,
Mike Wolowick (620) 231-4280
Frontenac Business Representative – Zone 1B
P.S. A wise man once said, “Wealth is easy to acquire, but income is harder to establish.”

Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Despite the current economic condition, I believe our local and the entire UA is going to see a significant change in our industry over the coming months. There is light at the end of this tunnel!

Let me explain some of my thoughts. Recently, the Department of Labor issued new guidelines to clarify the application of Davis-Bacon to stimulus projects. What this means is that all construction projects that use stimulus funds, whether federal, state, or local will be subject to Davis-Bacon, thus requiring federal prevailing wages to be paid. This puts the non-union contractor on the same level playing field as our contractors and no reason for our contractors not to bid this work.

There are many projects in the works across Kansas and the rest of the United States that there is a base being laid for a huge boom in our industry. I’m talking about years of work, not just a few months. One of the biggest sectors is going to be energy and our local is right there with Sunflower Electric and the Holcomb project. Sunflower expects to break ground by the middle of 2010.

It might be hard to imagine now, but we need to plan ahead for manpower as these projects develop. Even through these current hard times I can say that the certified welders have continued to be in demand. One of the options in the planning stage is a 16-week welder training course. If you think this is something you would be interested and dedicated to do, contact Kerry Stine with the JAC Department (316) 267-8508.

Brothers and Sisters, if you are in supervision, please give thought when you are hiring. This economy is even tougher on our apprentices. Most of them have families too and some are not going to get their OT hours to advance next year.

In closing, always think safety while working and enjoy the summer with your family.

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

Thanks to the positive attitude and commitment of Mid-American Water and Plumbing’s President Bruce Ewing, Management Team and Employees. I believe a rewarding and productive Partnership has been formed, and look forward to working with all in the future!

THANK YOU MID-AMERICAN WATER & PLUMBING INC., AND OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

WELCOME TO LOCAL UNION #441!

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

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:
Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9

UA LOCAL #441 RETIREE MEETINGS
Frontenac Area Retirees
Meet each Tuesday morning at Home Café, Cherokee, KS at 8 a.m.

Lawrence Area Retirees
No monthly meetings scheduled. We encourage a group to establish meetings and let the Hall in Wichita know date, time, location.
You are also welcome to attend other area retiree meetings.

Topeka Area Retirees
Meet every Wednesday morning at Hardee’s at 21st and Wanamaker 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]

Phone calls and letters sent to the various legislators expressing the importance of this project. I also want to thank Governor Parkinson for taking the initiative to work out a compromise with Sunflower on the Energy Bill which allows the Holcomb Expansion Project to go forward. The Bill also promotes many renewable energy initiatives that are beneficial to the Kansas economy and will help create many badly needed jobs. Realistically, given the process necessary to complete applications for newly required air permits with the Federal EPA, and many other requirements, this project is at least one year away from breaking ground. However, it is not too early for Local 441 to start planning and preparing for a project of this magnitude and we are doing just that. Securing qualified manpower and training are at the top of the agenda. This project will last a minimum of four years and could easily turn into six or seven if other plans for the Plant come to fruition. There is a possibility this project will require an additional Business Representative to oversee it and also will give Local 441 the opportunity to establish a real presence in Western Kansas. Very seldom does a Local Union have an opportunity to secure a project such as this in their jurisdiction. Local 441 will be prepared and will no doubt experience huge benefits during the construction of this project and continued benefits for many years beyond its completion.

We recently completed negotiations in three of the four Zones: Topeka; Lawrence; and Frontenac. The Frontenac Zone was completed through the normal negotiation process which resulted in a two-year agreement with $1.50 increase to total package effective June 1, 2009 and $1.80 increase to total package effective June 1, 2010, and then a wage opener adjusted prior to June 1, 2011, for the final two years of the current contract. Local 441 was not able to reach an agreement through the normal process with the Topeka and Lawrence Zones.

Per our Collective Bargaining Agreement, this initiated involvement of the Industrial Relations Council (IRC). The Contractor’s negotiating committee and Local 441’s negotiating committee each prepared briefs and arrived in Denver, Colorado on July 8, 2009, as scheduled by the IRC, to conduct a hearing to resolve the negotiations. Through this process an agreement was reached which assigned wage increases over the next four years. Effective June 1, 2009, $0.20 increase designated for Health and Welfare; effective July 8, 2009, $0.95 increase to total package; effective June 1, 2010, $1.25 increase to total package; effective June 1, 2011, $1.00 increase to total package; and effective June 1, 2012, $1.50 increase to total package. This is a process that can be somewhat complicated, but in this case I feel Local 441 ended up with a fair and reasonable resolution.

Congratulations to the four apprentices that recently represented Local 441 during the Regional Apprentice Contest held in Chicago at Local 597’s training center. They included: Welden-Johnny Curl; Pipefitter-John Adams; Plumber-Steve Wherrell; and HVAC Tech-Chris Brooks. (See Page 5) I was able to attend a portion of the contest and was very proud of the efforts put forth by the Local 441 apprentices. Each of these young men exhibited skills well beyond their years and no doubt have a successful and rewarding career ahead of them in the piping industry. In conclusion, I would like to welcome Mid-America Water and Plumbing as a new signatory contractor to Local 441 as of May 1, 2009. Mid-American is a Contractor that has been in business for over 20 years and is located in Manhattan. Organizer/Agent Phil Petty is primarily responsible for signing this new contractor and was also successful in organizing all of their current employees that perform plumbing and pipefitting work for the company totaling 23 new members. (See Page 4) The new members include a mixture of Journeymen and Apprentices at various years of classification. As the opportunity arises for you to meet these new members, please make them feel welcome as new members of Local 441. Mid-American has proven to be very aggressive and has bid several projects over the past couple of months. One most notably that Mid-American was the successful bidder on is the Marysville Hospital Project that should start late summer or early fall.

We are starting to see some new work being bid and coming out for bid in Local 441’s jurisdiction. I feel confident that we will capture a fair portion of this work and should begin to see the results of that over the next few months. We must all strive each and every day to secure our share of the industry and be driven to increase that share. This is our constant challenge and one that we can never stop pursuing.

Work smart, work safe, and may God bless you and your families.

Job Hotline: (316) 269-2472

CONTACTS

Wichita (316) 265-4291 Training (316) 267-8508
Topeka (785) 364-8639 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, 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.

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

Health & Welfare Office
www.ppi-fund.org
(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas
www.BCBSKS.com
(800) 432-3900 or (785) 291-4180

Delta Dental of Kansas
www.DentalDentalKS.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/KA Annuity
(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

United Association Website: www.ua.org
Local 441’s Members Provide Generous Donation to Help Echo

For a few days, she could be with other kids a lot like her. For a few days, her family could connect with others going through some of the same challenges they face on a daily basis. They received support, feedback, resources and camaraderie... and they couldn’t have done it without a generous donation from the membership of Local 441.

LU 441’s contribution allowed the Tomassello family to attend the 2009 Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy Conference in Cincinnati, OH, in June.

Little Echo Tomassello was born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. At just three years old, she’s already defied doctor’s expectations of her life expectancy. Due to respiratory complications, Echo relies on medical equipment and round-the-clock health care.

Despite many demands, Echo’s parents, Kiley and Fred Tomassello, a member of LU 441, do what they can to make her days fun and meaningful, while furthering her development. The conference provided information and encouragement to families coping with the complications presented by this debilitating disease.

Echo’s perseverance and courage, and her family’s steadfast attention and love, offer a shining example and enduring lesson of compassion and support. In this case, the Tomassello’s union family provided the means for them to continue to make the best life possible for their tiny, blond-haired, pink-cheeked cutie!

“I have always been proud to be Manager of Local 441, but the pride that comes with being associated with members willing to make a donation such as this is at the top of the list,” said Business Manager Richard Taylor.

“I have had the honor of meeting Echo and have to say that I have never met a more courageous individual. Her spirit is inspiring and certainly not one of concern for herself. Local 441’s donation enabled Echo and her family to attend a conference with other families and children similar to Echo.

In doing so, Echo’s family gained new knowledge that will enable them to increase Echo’s quality of life, which makes the precious time she has been given here on earth a little more enjoyable. I want to personally thank the membership of Local 441 for their generous donation to Echo and her family.”

Thank you for making the world a better place through your participation in your union!

Kiley, Echo and 441 Member Fred Tomassello (and Echo’s full-time nurse caregiver Kari, standing in back).

Thanks from Echo’s Family

Our family would like to thank Local 441 for donating the funds needed to enable us to attend the 2009 Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy Conference.

Standing in the conference room of the hotel where our daughter, Echo, was staying, we could only stare in wonder at all the kids zipping around in their motorized wheelchairs, and listening to their parents scold them to slow down just like you would a child that was running around on two feet weaving in and out of the crowds.

Sitting in a room full of parents listening to their stories of how they deal with day-to-day life with their Type 1 child, even though, like us, they have been told that their child couldn’t possibly live and lead a full life.

Learning how to adapt toys, like a bubble blower that you buy from Wal-Mart, and even board games so they can play CandyLand with their sibling. Watching a yoga demonstration and even a water therapy demonstration and knowing these things will benefit the well-being of your child.

Spending the evening at a carnival designed just for our kids and winning prizes (even if dad had to help throw the ball at the pins). Being told that you’re doing the right thing after sitting in on a lecture held by a leading pulmonologist, Dr. Schroth, about how to keep your child’s lungs healthy. Being able to share your fears and joys with people who understand what you are going through because they live it every day too.

Local 441 Utilizing Robocalls

Recently, Local 441 has used robocalls to reach members regarding special order of business meeting cancellations in the Topeka and Lawrence areas.

A Robocall is a pre-recorded message, usually 30 seconds in length. Coupled with a list of contacts, it simultaneously sends out that message to hundreds of people at once per minute. Robocalls use software to launch calls out to a list of numbers provided by Local 441. Then the message is played to every phone number on the list. The number is called, detection will determine whether a human or answering machine picked up the phone and the software will then play back the message.

One issue we have encountered is that there is a significant pause after you answer while robocall determines whether it is a human or an answering machine/voicemail that has reached. Some members have hung up before the message begins playing. Another issue is the amount of rings on your phone/cell phone. If you have your setting at more than four rings, the system will move on and you will not receive the message.

Obviously this technology is not perfect; however, it is relatively inexpensive and another avenue we are utilizing to reach out to the membership. Our hope is that if you receive the call and get the message, you will be in touch with other members that may not have received the message because of one of the issues mentioned and will help us in passing along the information.

We will endeavor to determine who is not receiving the messages and try to work with the robocall company to refine this process.

We are also determining further uses for robocalls. We want to utilize this additional technology to keep the membership up to date on important meetings and other upcoming events. We would like your comments so please let us know what you think!

WAGE/BENEFIT CHANGES JUNE & JULY 2009

These zones’ wage and benefit packages have changes effective June 1 & July 8, 2009. The changes are as follows:

Effective June 1, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALL Zones</th>
<th>Increase Health &amp; Welfare $0.20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(total Rate $5.50/hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZONE 1-A &amp; 1-B</td>
<td>Increase Local Retirement Fund $0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Total Rate $2.60/hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZONE 1-A</td>
<td>Increase Basic Wage Rate $1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(J-man rate $27.65/hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZONE 1-B</td>
<td>Increase PPI Retirement (KSR) $1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Total Rate $1.50/hr)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Effective July 8, 2009

| ZONE 2-A & 2B & 1-B | Increase Large Commercial/Heavy Industrial |
|                     | Increase Basic Wage Rate $0.95  |
|                     | (J-man rate $30.09/hr)          |