Business Manager’s Report

Issues of Interest
Past and present…

2015 is off and running. There are plenty of important issues to address as we move forward into the year. And, as always, there are financial restraints and worries that will have to be considered as we apply the budget to operate this local union and continue to understand and implement new strategies that make our local more effective, more agile, more easily understood by our membership and contractors, and more responsive to the changing needs of our industry and the economy. All of this comes with the realization that this local union provides many valuable services that the members and contractors expect and depend upon that must be maintained. It is also obvious that as our industry changes and evolves, this local union must change and evolve as well.

Looking back at 2014, there are three observations that I would like to share. First, it is understood by all that we have a responsibility to reserve funds to insure a secure future for this local union. But with that, we also know that we have an expected level of service and responsibility to all our members and contractors that have to be met. Strategic planning and decision making are crucial to eliminate the drawdown of our funds without decimating quality services and initiatives. This is where having a budget and utilizing it can identify trouble ahead before it happens. By practicing this concept we have been able to grow our General Fund to a point that now allows us to make financial decisions that benefit our local without the worry of financial distress.

Secondly, we need to be cognizant of job creation and continue to improve upon our apprenticeship program to insure a well-trained future workforce. The past couple of years have blessed Local 441 with an abundance of work-hours, and it appears this trend will continue into the future. We have a role in understanding our communities, connecting with business leaders, supporting a job creating atmosphere, and insuring the support we give complements our membership and their ability to maintain employment. This is why it is critical that we expand our training program and having the financial means to accomplish this allows the decision making process to become much easier. Thank you to the membership for your support in this effort.

There are many philosophies, theories, ideas about how we should operate as a local union to help foster job creation and gain market share. It is important we stay pragmatic in our approach and maintain a positive and open mind to partnerships, and this may mean in some cases partnering with groups or individuals that in the past we have shied away from. We need to weigh out the decisions before us with good information and membership input, and always understand that there are outside threats to our local union’s future that we must consider.

Central Building Trades Endorse Jeff Longwell for Wichita Mayor

Jeff Longwell, a candidate for mayor of Wichita in the April 7 election, has been unanimously endorsed by the Central Building Trades, which includes LU 441.

Longwell has the necessary background and expertise and has presented an economic plan that will help Wichita prosper and create jobs that benefit all.

For more information, go to www.sedgwick-county.org/elections.
Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

WORK OUTLOOK

The work looks very good for the coming year. We currently have around 60 on the Riverton project, which is going very well. The work in southeast Kansas has been slow for the past few years, so it is nice to be able to have the members from the area working at home.

Local 441 continues to gain union presence at the Wolf Creek Plant. We have dispatched over 100 pipefitters, welders and apprentices to the plant for a 3 month shutdown. I have no doubt the membership will outperform the non-union and in the process make P1 Group look good for upcoming work in the plant.

Piping & Equipment is doing an excellent job and picking up work at the NCRA refinery as well as shop fabrication. I believe we could hit 100 in that plant too.

Most of our local contractors have a good work load for the 1st half of the year and there is no lack of jobs to bid. On top of that there are 11 out of state contractors currently doing work in our jurisdiction. That being said, it looks like a good year ahead.

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. We now have over 200 apprentices in the program. The application process is the first 2 weeks in March so if you know anyone that is interested in applying, have them contact the training department for information.

I’m looking forward to year ahead and as always if you need anything give me a call.

Fraternally,

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

EPA Approves New Climate-Friendly Refrigerants

As part of President Obama’s Climate Action Plan, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is increasing the options for refrigerants used in various kinds of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment in the United States that offer better climate protection without harming the ozone layer. After receiving input from industry, environmental groups, and others, the EPA is approving low-global warming potential (GWP) hydrocarbon refrigerants, subject to use conditions, in several applications.

Frontenac Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The start of the 2015 New Year in southeast Kansas is going well. The manpower at Riverton has peaked out at fifty plus. Hopefully, a few more men will come onboard this spring. Marley Cooling Towers have laid off their manpower on the pipefitting side. Our men did a great job on this project. I expect MCT to bring back three to four men to finish up this spring and/or summer.

Sachs was awarded the contract for controls of the Riverton project. We are looking at adding 4-5 pipefitters sometime during the month of March. The water intake for the Riverton project was awarded to Kissick as the General Contractors. They will sub out the piping to Vaughn Mechanical or AZCO. This decision should come soon. Hopefully, they will have a pre-job set up by the end of March.

Absenteism on this project has been a topic. If you need time off, please plan ahead. This helps everyone involved on the project. We can all agree that absenteeism due to illness cannot be helped. After all, we are in the middle of flu season.

Other work bidding in southeast Kansas:

- Gates Rubber Plant in Iola — this is a 16,000-square-foot expansion.
- Chanute Hospital is expected to expand its surgical center.
- The Fort Scott School Project is estimated to be a $40 million project.
- An expansion of a gas turbine is set for the Coffeyville Power City Utility’s Project.
- Girard School district has bid an expansion to the grade school. The bid for the high school facility should be finished in the near future.

Have a safe and happy spring!

Fraternally Yours,

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

Did you know?...

- Fire Station No. 4 in Lawrence, originally a stone barn constructed in 1858, was a station on the Underground Railroad.
- The Geodetic Center of North America is about 40 miles south of Lebanon at Meade’s Ranch. It is the beginning point of reference for land surveying in North America. When a surveyor checks a property line, he or she is checking the position of property in relation to Meade’s Ranch in northwest Kansas.
- At one time it was against the law to serve ice cream on cherry pie in Kansas.
Manhattan/Fort Riley Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“I thought Fort Riley consisted of what you can see as you drive by on I-70.” I have heard that comment many times during discussions about Fort Riley, and it reminds me that many Kansans do not realize the important role that Fort Riley plays in the Kansas Economy.

According to reports distributed by the Fort’s public affairs offices, Fort Riley is the largest employer in the region. The total economic impact of Fort Riley to the Central Flint Hills Region was $1.63 billion in 2014. That includes $1.2 billion in payroll; $216 million supplies, services and contracts; $78 million in construction; $22 million in education and $102 million in health care. The indirect economic impact comes to nearly $3.6 billion.

The total population of the Fort, including military personnel (17,522), family members (22,592), civilian employees (6,522) and nearby retirees (3,817) totals 50,453, the report said.

I found it interesting to compare these current figures to figures from 1917 when the United States entered World War 1. Camp Funston – which was already under construction at Fort Riley – became the largest semi-permanent training center in the country, and the second largest World War 1 camp in the nation overall. Ten thousand civilian workers built a training center that covered more than 2,000 acres. The cost of the project was $10 million and required more than 47 million feet of lumber. Barracks were built to house 50,000 men. Twenty thousand more were housed in tents. One building would go up every 46 minutes and there were anywhere from 2,800 to 4,000 buildings.

FORT RILEY SOON WILL REQUIRE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR VISITORS who do not have military ID cards.

Beginning April 1, people without official Department of Defense identification cards will need temporary visitor’s passes or long-term access badges to enter the Army Post. To receive passes or badges, individuals will first have to pass background checks. The process is similar to what police use in traffic stops and should take 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Once a check is complete, it will be valid for one year; however, repeat guests will need to stop at the Visitor Control Center to receive another temporary pass.

Effective March 2, people without DOD cards must enter the Army Post through Henry Gate. On April 1, the Army will fully implement the new access procedures, but encourage guests to begin the process sooner to avoid delays on April 1. The Visitor Control Center near Henry Gate is open 24 hours a day to accommodate the members of the public who want to apply for their passes or badges ahead of time. The application is also available on the Fort Riley website.

Fraternally,

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

Topeka/Lawrence Area

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

This winter weather has made it tough on many of our members who are working outside. I’m always appreciative of the dedication and work ethic shown by Local 441 hands working under some very tough conditions. Please continue to take care of yourselves while working outside.

An old Pipefitter told me long ago “There ain’t nothin’ stopping the wind between Jeffrey Energy Center and the North pole except a barbed wire fence and a polar bear.” There may have been some truth to that.

Work in the Lawrence/Topeka area should get better as the weather warms up. PI and McElroy’s have some work at the KU campus. Rodriguez and Environmental have just about completed their work at the LEEP 2 project. At Washburn University, Morgan Hall (McElroy’s) and KBI (MSI) are still going on as of this date. The Stormont Vail Ortho Project at the old State Hospital grounds in Topeka should get going soon.

I would like to do a quick “shout out” to a couple of our Union Stewards who have been of great service to this local and it’s members. Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant Refuel shutdown is getting started. Brother Steve Atwood (PI) is doing one heck of a job helping Bill and I keep track of who’s there. He is the main contact guy for 441 guys and travelers. His help is appreciated by 441 and it’s members. Also, Brother Donny Miller has been working diligently with Taylor Forge and 441 to get welders. Many thanks go out to all of our Stewards. You guys are an asset to your Local union.

I have a formula that I would like some feedback from our Members, it goes like this:

Talent/Skills + Training + Opportunity + Safety + Motivation = Career or $$$

Let me know what it means to you. I’ll address this with my next Newsletter article.

Thanks again for your time,

Fraternally yours,

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

“Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat.” —Laura Ingalls Wilder
The natural gas-fired power plant in Riverton (located in southeast Kansas) is currently in the process of a major upgrade, including adding a HRSG (heat recovery steam generator) unit.

Sixty-five LU 441 members are currently employed on this project.

LU 441 member Ray McCorgary is the project’s General Foreman.
Riverton Project
Saturday, June 13, 2015 • 8:00 a.m. Shotgun • Sand Creek Station Golf Course • Newton, KS
$70 per Player (includes lunch/two drink tickets/gifts!)

***Prize Money for 1st four flights***

Four-person scramble. Register your team early! Limited entries! Fun! Food! Prizes!
Reservations due by Friday, May 15, 2015. Contact Local 441 to register at (316) 265-4291 or email: email@ua441.org. Download your registration form at www.ua441.org

KBI

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation’s new headquarters in Topeka, KS, is 75% complete. Currently there are 22 LU 441 members on-site. Steve Stenger of LU 441 is the project General Foreman working for Mechanical Systems Inc.
**Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center Receives Gift**

LAWRENCE – Melba Conner of Eudora, Kansas has donated $5,000 to support the development of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center. The gift was made in honor of her late husband, Marvin Conner, who was a member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union.

Shirley Martin-Smith, Chair of the Peaslee Center’s Board of Directors said, “This personal gift in honor of Marvin Conner is yet another testimonial to the importance of the skilled trades to our quality of life in Douglas County and the need to ensure that these important skilled trades are accessible to those men and women who want to have great careers in our community.”

Melba Conner noted that her husband had worked as a pipefitter welder during his lengthy career. She said that “he started as a teenager and worked with the Union until his retirement and I just wanted to help the Peaslee Center in his name.”

Located at 2920 Haskell Avenue, the Peaslee Center’s mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth by providing access to technical training to a diverse community of learners to meet the current and emerging needs of our communities and employers. The Peaslee Center will offer courses starting in fall 2015 in advanced manufacturing, construction, computer literacy and other areas.

Community members may contribute to the Peaslee Center by mailing a check to the Douglas County Community Foundation, 900 Massachusetts, Suite 406, Lawrence, KS 66044, or donate online at www.dccfoundation.org. Please indicate that the contribution is for the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center, Inc.

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**CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF UA:**
**A Long and Proud History Since 1889**

The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada (UA), affiliated with the national building trades, represents approximately 370,000 plumbers, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters, service technicians and welders in Local Unions across North America.

The UA has been training qualified pipe tradesmen and women longer than anyone else in the industry, recently celebrating our 125th anniversary! We provide the premier training programs available in the industry today, including five-year apprenticeship programs, extensive journeyman training, a comprehensive, five-year instructor training program, and numerous certification programs.

We help our signatory contractors grow their market share by identifying new opportunities, providing support and connecting them to the safest, most skilled and most highly trained workforce in the industry.

See our video and learn more about your UA at [www.UA.org/125](http://www.UA.org/125) or [www.youtube.com/watch?v=thhSxCEzbQ#t=86](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thhSxCEzbQ#t=86).

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*The reality is that unions represent people. We are one of the few groups in American politics whose priorities go beyond their own memberships and promote a program that will benefit all working people. Union contracts protect workers whether they are union members or not. This priority for workers interferes with corporate priority, which is to make a profit. This profit making in many cases is without regard to the rights of the employees. Employers are not going to ensure workers good wages and benefits or even safe working conditions unless pushed by the workers themselves. And the way to push is to utilize the collective bargaining power of the union… many standing together as one.*

Local elections for Mayor, City Council, County Commission, and School Board are important in helping to create and push economic development in the right direction. And of course this will result in construction projects that supply jobs for our membership. Make sure you take the time to vote on April 7th. Support candidates that work to support working families and the middle class.

**Finances…**

The 2014 audit was just completed. Once your Finance Committee has had an opportunity to review the audit in detail, Local 441’s Accountant will give a full report of the audit at the May 11th union meeting. Due to another great year, your union funds ended 2014 with positive gains while keeping expenses down. We realized a total increase in Local 441’s net assets of $608,975 with $286,606 of that realized by the General Fund. Expenses for the year were kept under control with vertically no increase when compared to 2013 with only 0.19% or $3,506 increase to operating expenses. It is this office’s responsibility along with the Finance Committee to make sure when funds are utilized that it is done so wisely and in a manner that benefits the common good. We will continue to monitor where costs can be cut, where we can be more efficient in our day-to-day operations, and strive to lower our operating expenses even more. It is your money that operates this local union.

Negotiations are scheduled this year prior to June 1st for the Frontenac Zone. The only issue that will be on the table is wages and benefits unless both parties agree to include other parts of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Topeka, Lawrence, and Wichita Zones all have one year remaining before its next scheduled wage opener in 2016. Effective June 1, 2015, Topeka, Lawrence, and Wichita Zones will receive $1.00 increase to their total packages. It will be up to the membership to determine at a Special Meeting in May how the $1.00 will be allocated. The membership will receive notification when the meetings will be scheduled.

With the summer months ahead everyone seems to get even busier both at home and on our job sites. But even though you may be on a tight schedule, take time to observe proper safety precautions. Our Union stresses this, our contractors expect this, and our common sense demands this. Don’t take shortcuts with safety. We all want everyone to stay safe and healthy and return home to your families each night in the same condition.

*God Bless and Work Safe.*
Kansas Direct Pipeline

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.BCBKS.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 for 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.

Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Health and Welfare Plan of Kansas
Don’t Take Chances With Your Health

Being told you need surgery can be scary, but undergoing unnecessary surgery is even scarier. If you have been told you need surgery, or are facing any other medical decision, it’s always a good idea to get a second opinion. That is why your union provides you with the free benefit—Best Doctors.

Best Doctors gives you access to expert second opinions from the world’s leading physicians, and it won’t cost you a thing. Best Doctors even collects your medical records for a more hassle-free experience.

Best Doctors is available at no cost to all L.U. #441 members and dependents that are eligible to participate in the benefits plan. Remember, all Best Doctors services are completely confidential!

Best Doctors can help you make the right decisions about your treatment, give you peace of mind, and improve the quality of care you receive.

To get started, call 1-866-904-0910 or visit https://members.bestdoctors.com
To learn more about the way Best Doctors’ services work, view our video: http://www.bestdoctors.com/about-best-doctors
And to hear other members talk about their experience with Best Doctors, view their videos AT http://www.bestdoctors.com/about-best-doctors/our-stories

“Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat.” —Laura Ingalls Wilder
WORLD PLUMBING DAY 2015: We Protect the Health of the Nation

The United Association has a longstanding commitment to ensuring public access to clean water and sanitation systems which our members build and maintain.

That is why we are proud to join the rest of the world in celebrating World Plumbing Day each year on March 11th. According to the World Water Council, more than 1 billion people live without reliable access to clean drinking water. Additionally, more than 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation. Almost 4,000 children die every day from preventable water-borne diseases. In modern society, we believe this is unacceptable.

No family anywhere in the world can thrive without access to fresh water and sanitation. In fact, economies can’t grow without basic water infrastructure, including our own.

Effective water systems enable better health (reducing healthcare costs), environmental sustainability (promoting long-term environmental protection), and employment and education opportunities.

Hundreds of thousands of jobs are created when we invest in life-saving water infrastructure that delivers water to our homes, schools and hospitals. Water infrastructure has a tremendous bearing on our economic competitiveness, our health and safety, and even our national security. Therefore, we have a vested interest in the national and global management of water resources.

There’s an increasing awareness across the planet that our fresh water resources are limited and need to be protected both in terms of quality and quantity. We believe that water is “everybody’s business.”

In the United States and Canada, as well in our affiliated countries, we have taken the proactive approach to ensure clean water and effective sanitation programs. Yet these advancements are often taken for granted. Diseases such as typhoid and others have been eradicated thanks to the work of hardworking men and women in the UA, and the rest of the world deserves and can have the same quality of life we enjoy thanks to our industry advancements.


UA Scholarship Fund Info

The United Association Scholarship Trust Fund is gearing up for the 2015-2016 academic year scholarship awards!

The fund benefits UA members and their dependents (please see criteria in the detailed instructions found with the application).

The deadline for submitting applications is June 15, 2015.

Download the application through the link at our website, www.ua441.org, or at www.ua441.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ua_scholarship_application_2015.pdf.