



# Kansas Direct Pipeline

Official Publication of  
**PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS UA LOCAL UNION #441**

**VOL. 9 NO. 1**

**MARCH 2011**



Richard L. Taylor

## Business Manager's Report

On February 5th nominations were held for officers of Local 441. The result was what is referred to as a "White Ballot." Nominations were made for each office with no of- fice having any opposition, effectively eliminating the need to proceed with the normal election process. This then led to the Recording Secretary declaring a unanimous bal- lot and making a motion to consider all those nominated as the new officers by accla- mation. The motion was seconded and passed by the members present. Obviously this will also save the local all the expense related to the election process.

Congratulations and welcome to your new Local 441 Officers, which are identified in this addition of the Kansas Direct Pipeline. Thank you to the past officers for their valuable service and commitment to Local 441. I also want to personally thank the membership for allowing me to continue serving as your Business Manager. Together we have been able to move this local in a direction that has gained us recognition and respect, not only in Kansas, but also throughout the UA. Through our superior training we have been able to supply our contractors with highly skilled manpower that is second-to-none in our industry. Politicians seek us out for our insight and advice concerning labor issues. We have been able to establish ourselves with community leaders and are recognized and seen as an essential part of our communi- ties. But, our work has just begun.

It seems every day in the media we read of unprecedented assaults on organized labor and the values of middle class working people by corporate-led governments across the country. The same holds true right here in our own state of Kansas. During the current political session in Topeka, legislators are in the process of passing new laws that will make it illegal for union members to voluntarily authorize money to be deducted from their paychecks to be utilized for any type of a political fund. They are also in the process of eliminating reimburse- ment for the one week waiting period while collecting unemployment. Currently unemployment the first week, which is considered a waiting period, is reimbursed to the individual once they have been unemployed for three weeks. Taking this money during the most difficult time a family has in transitioning to job loss and making adjustments to household budgets is a profound statement being sent by far-right conservatives that are trying to strip the middle class of their most fundamental rights. Their plan seeks to eliminate countless jobs, eliminate collective bargaining rights, pass Right-to-Work laws, and ban key policies vital to the Building Trades such as prevailing wages, project labor agreements (PLAs), and funding of the National Labor Relations Board.

We will stand up to these injustices, but it is also critical that we don't lose our heads or get carried away with our heartfelt actions. This generally will be perceived as doing more harm than good by those watching. So, while it is critical that we ultimately defeat these, we must also make sure we maintain our dignity in the fight, no matter how heated the battles become.

*[Continued on Page 5]*



## Apprentices on Day Shift at JEC, St. Marys

L-R: Brandon Cox, Marvin Vance, Kellan Eck, Josh Sterling, and Dusty Roudybush [not pictured is George Foxworth].

The investment in our training program is paying off with the production of high-calibre ap- prentices.

See page 8 for more details.

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



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## Financial News from your 401(k) Investment Advisor

By Benjamin Newhouse

### Financial Markets:

With the 2010 chapter having recently come to a close, we have many positive aspects upon which we can reflect. First, equity investors have largely finished that calendar year with strong positive performance. Next, U.S. consumers have been able to enjoy historically low interest rates in the financing (or refinancing) of their purchases. Current inflation rates remain below historical levels. The unemployment level, although still high, has at least now dropped to its lowest level in two years. Plus (and perhaps most encouraging), leading economic indicators are no longer suggesting the potential of our economy falling into a downward deflationary spiral, or back into a "double-dip" recession, to be a current material concern.

So, by many accounts, the U.S. economy is showing strong signs of returning to solid ground after having been thoroughly shaken by a number of negative events in recent years. In fact, many leading economic indicators now suggest that corporate U.S. profits will be poised to reach record levels in the year 2011.

In short, we are currently enjoying several economic factors that are presently aligned in very favorable fashion. Factors such as positive fiscal stimulus (i.e. government spending), positive monetary stimulus, low inflation, low interest rates, reasonable and attractive equity valuations, and strong corporate profits all rarely become so well-aligned at the same time.

### What to Watch For:

For investing purposes, it will be important to watch the progression of many of the above named economic factors, simply because their positive well-aligned status cannot always remain sustainable at the same time. Eventually, one of these factors will exit from its current positive alignment, so it will be important for investors to make adjustments in their portfolios when these shifts begin to appear.

For example, our current positive fiscal stimulus is likely to continue throughout this year; the government typically increases their fiscal stimulus during the third year of a presidential cycle to improve their re-election campaign. However, although the U.S. has a manageable level of debt today, this very accommodative fiscal policy will not be sustainable if the current rate of stimulus continues to be injected into our economy for more than a few years - government debt ceilings become reached, credit ratings on government bonds become affected, thereby causing interest rates to rise and the value of bonds prices to fall, etc.) Consequently, people investing in any type of bond (or bond fund) should keep a close eye on the length of time our government's fiscal policy is allowed to be so accommodative, in order to better protect the value of their investments from getting eroded by resulting market forces in the future.

Another very important component investors should be watching involves the current monetary policy being carried out by the U.S. Federal Reserve banking system. Mr. Ben Bernanke, who is the Chairman of the Board of this banking system, is essentially making it very clear to the public that the Federal Reserve intends to continue injecting massive amounts of liquidity into the U.S. economy. This operation, which has become known as the second round of "quantitative easing" (i.e. QE2), should be a signal to all investors and savers that the Federal Reserve is essentially manipulating interest rates to keep them artificially below where they would otherwise be at this time.

While this type of interaction has secured many positive effects for the U.S. economy and consumers at large, it does effectively serve to penalize savers and investors in fixed income instruments (i.e. bonds, CDs, savings accounts, etc.) in favor of generating the Fed's desired consumer spending outcome. It appears we'll likely continue to remain in this environment being created by the Federal Reserve banking system for some time, since it is doing all it can to keep our economic recovery moving forward.

### Unique Aspect About One of Your Investment Options:

Although the current monetary policy being enacted by the Federal Reserve has resulted in record low interest rates (nationwide) being paid by banks on CD and savings accounts, the Guaranteed Interest Account within your retirement plan has been largely immune from these effects. This "immunity" was obtained by your plan trustees, who negotiated certain provisions with the plan provider (Mass Mutual) for your benefit. One of the benefits they obtained for you includes a contractual guarantee from Mass Mutual to always pay at least a 3% rate of interest on a plan participant's money invested in the Guaranteed Interest Account. This contractual guarantee has now proven to become invaluable and irreplaceable. Your assets invested in this Guaranteed Interest Account have always been paid at least a 3% rate of interest, despite the fact that prevailing rates paid on such type of accounts elsewhere have been well below the 1% level for the past couple years.

### Summary:

In summary, the prospects for having second consecutive good year in the stock market appear to be very favorable. Many of the economic indicators we monitor suggest that the S&P 500 index is poised to end the year somewhere between 8%-10% higher than where it began, based off of the current earnings expectations of the companies comprising that index. The bond market also appears to be stable at this time (since it is not likely interest rates will move up in dramatic fashion in the near future), but investors need to keep a more watchful eye on it than was necessary in years past, as some of the factors mentioned above begin to materialize.

If you would like to receive additional advice about this economic commentary, or about any of the investment options available to you within your retirement plan, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. At Vineyard Asset Management, LLC, we have a toll-free dedicated line established exclusively for the benefit of all participants in the Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry Retirement Plan of Kansas, which is (866) 577-7101 (option 5).



## LOCAL UNION #441 Officers, Committee and Staff

Jerry D. Short, President

Gib Lane, Vice-President

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

John Crusinberry, Recording Secretary

Mark Hromek, Sergeant-at-Arms

### BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES/ORGANIZERS

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

### OFFICE STAFF

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

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Phil Green     | Shelby McDonald |
| Richard Watson | Dan McCulloch   |

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

|                  |           |                  |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| David E. Emerson | Bill Lorg | T. J. Strickland |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|

### EXAMINERS

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Mike Magennis | Kirk Miller, Sr. |
| Denis Wittman | Mike Wolownik    |

### BYLAWS COMMITTEE

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

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

Visit YOUR Union Website:  
**www.UA441.org!**



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Kansas Direct Pipeline reserves the right  
to reject or discontinue any material  
considered unfair to Local #441.

Address all inquiries to:  
1330 E 1<sup>st</sup> St, Ste 115, Wichita, KS 67214,  
(316) 265-4291, [email@ua441.org](mailto:email@ua441.org)

Visit YOUR website: [www.UA441.org](http://www.UA441.org)



## IN MEMORIAM

**Elton E. Bloomberg**, 90, died December 3, 2010. Most recently of Assaria, Ks. Brother in good standing for 56 years.

**O. Roger Gray**, 70, died January 12, 2011. Most recently of Arkansas City, Ks. Brother in good standing for 43 years.

**Joseph "Jack" A. Jacquinet**, 73, died January 7, 2011. Most recently of McCune, Ks. Brother in good standing for 42 years.

**Mareons O. Melton**, 79, died December 8, 2010. Most recently of Cape Fair, Mo. Brother in good standing for 54 years.

**Sidney N. Purinton**, 89, died March 18, 2010. Most recently of Billings, Mt. Brother in good standing for 66 years.

**John W. Tindell**, 67, died December 8, 2010. Most recently of Berryton, Ks. Brother in good standing for 42 years.

**Alfred F. Wasinger**, 81, died December 12, 2010. Most recently of Hutchinson, Ks. Brother in good standing for 53 years.



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

## AMERICAN INCOME LIFE

### Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy

Recently, 441 offices have heard some questions from various members about American Income Life.

You received a letter in January 2011 from 441 about a benefit increase. This benefit is made available to active members through American Income Life. The Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy is for a face amount of \$2,500 and is provided at no cost to members. You may have sent in a beneficiary card with your name, address, phone number and designated beneficiary previously. If you did, you do not need to complete the new beneficiary card, but if you need to update your beneficiary, please do so.

A representative of American Income Life may have or may be calling you. If you are interested in other insurance plans available through American Income Life, that would be a separate policy and totally at your discretion. If you are not interested in anything further, just tell the representative that and they will not contact you any further.

The Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit stands no matter whether you choose to have any other type of insurance through their company as long as you are a union member.

If you have any questions you can contact American Income Life at 1-800-495-1213 or you may contact the Public Relations Representative for our area, Dee Hettinger, at (316) 516-1788.

## Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Although our Local has seen a lot of unemployment this past winter, I believe it is improving and will continue to improve as we move into spring.

Local 441 members know how to do the job right the first time and it is showing. Every outage we are able to pick up more work from the non-union contractors. Our goal is the outages will be done with 100% Union Labor and I believe we are headed in the right direction to do just that!

We currently have outage work going in two different power plants, which is helping with our out of work list. There are two union contractors in Wolf Creek: P1 Group with approximately 65 pipefitters and welders; the other being an out of state contractor, Atlantic Plant Maintenance (APM), also with 65 pipefitters and welders. Local 441 partnered with APM last spring to train for their welding procedure. To date we have dispatched 38 welders to APM and all have passed. That is unheard of in the nuclear industry and it proves what you can accomplish by working together.

Day & Zimmerman NPS also has an outage going at Jeffrey Energy Center. That outage will peak with around 75 pipefitters and welders. I feel our Local is also gaining ground in that plant. The last outage came in ahead of schedule and under budget. On top of that, there were zero recordable accidents from all crafts. This is a huge statement.

As for upcoming work, I expect it to be slow until late spring. By then we should know which contractor was awarded the hospital at Ft. Riley. That project will peak at approximately 80 plumbers and pipefitters. We should also know who was awarded the first phase of the Bio Chem. Lab. in Manhattan by late spring.

In the Wichita area it looks like there will finally be a casino built this year. I get a lot of calls about Holcomb. That project looks very promising but realistically it will be a year before that job starts.

In closing, keep up the good work and be safe. It separates us from our competition.

I am honored and proud to work for the brothers and sisters of Local 441.

Fraternally,

Bill Urton (316) 265-4291

Business Representative/Dispatcher



## Wichita Area Zone 1A

Brothers and Sisters,



Once again, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your representative for the Wichita area. My appreciation goes out to everyone for their efforts in the field and dedication to Local #441. This local union continues to be a work in progress first for the membership and second for the contractor and customer base we serve. In order to prosper, we must view our relationship with contractor and customer in a businesslike fashion. We are part of a business model. Hard work, craftsmanship, and dedication, allow our contractors to be profitable. These three factors also make for satisfied customers. In order to be the premiere workforce in the piping industry we must remain focused. I ask every member to push themselves in these three key areas.

Over the past months we have seen a period stagnation. Contractors have some very good work in the area, however lay-offs seem to equal call-outs. For the months to come, many exciting projects are being reviewed and bid by our contractors. We have met with casino developers, school board members, facility managers, and general contractors all with projects coming in the summer months. They all want a quality product at the best price. To me that says value, and we must be able to produce value. Make no mistake about it, the non-union will take advantage of our shortcomings. That is why we must sell ourselves as the best value. Our future depends on it.

P&E Commercial Services has steadily been putting men to work on the new Northeast High School at 53rd North and Rock Road. This school will be a state of the art facility and is also the newest high school to be built since 1978. It is scheduled to be substantially complete by July of 2012. Recent relationships have also been built with Peninsula Gaming of Dubuque, Iowa. They have been given the go ahead to commence with building their casino the Kansas Star. At this time, we have four contractors competing for the mechanical package of this project, which is set to start underground in mid-March. Industrial projects will be slow as spring starts, however, most refiners, energy companies, and aircraft facilities have weathered the recession. We will see work in these plants continue to increase later in 2011.

Organizing has slowed a little in the area as we see members on the out of work list. The interest of unorganized craftsmen has not though. It has been difficult to energize a significant number of workers from a non-signatory contractor to stand together. In order to be effective, they must be willing to join collectively in putting pressure on management. My contacts seem to come one or two at a time. The word is out there though, that Local #441 is where craftsmen prosper.

In closing, I want to thank all my brothers and sisters for the opportunity to represent you in these ever-changing times. I also want to thank everyone for taking the time out of their busy lives to vote and be involved. Our democracy works because of hard working men and women striving for the good of all and not for the benefit of the individual. Not all decisions are popular with everyone, but the positive and negative are always weighed out for the benefit of the 1360 plus members of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #441.

Fraternally yours,

John H. Shepherd Jr. (316) 265-4291

Plumbers & Pipefitters of Kansas Local #441

Wichita Area Business Representative Zone 1A

**Job Hotline: (316) 269-2472**

## "White Ballot" Election on Feb. 5

Nominations were held for new officers at a Special Order of Business meeting on Feb. 5, 2011.

Each office was filled with no opposition. This is described as a white ballot. The Recording Secretary can then make a motion to cast a unanimous ballot and those nominated shall be considered the newly elected officers (see list at right).

These new officers will be sworn in at the July Union meeting. Congratulations!

At the same meeting, nominations were held for delegates to the upcoming 38th Convention of the United Association (see chart on following page).

Local 441 will be allowed approximately 13 delegates. There were 26 members nominated at the special meeting. Vote will be by secret ballot on April 9, 2011, to determine the delegates that will represent Local 441 at the convention.

## MEMBERS NOMINATED AT THE FEBRUARY 5, 2011 MEETING

| PRESIDENT   |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| CANDIDATE   | NOMINATED BY | SECONDED BY  |
| Jerry Short | Don Johnson  | Dick Robison |

| VICE-PRESIDENT       |              |             |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| CANDIDATE            | NOMINATED BY | SECONDED BY |
| John Crusinberry III | Gib Lane     | Don Johnson |

| BUSINESS MANAGER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER |               |             |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| CANDIDATE                                      | NOMINATED BY  | SECONDED BY |
| Richard Taylor                                 | Ray McCorgary | Don Henry   |

| RECORDING SECRETARY |              |             |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| CANDIDATE           | NOMINATED BY | SECONDED BY |
|                     |              |             |

| SERGEANT OF ARMS |                |                   |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| CANDIDATE        | NOMINATED BY   | SECONDED BY       |
| Mark Hromek      | Richard Watson | John Shepherd Jr. |

| EXECUTIVE BOARD |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| CANDIDATE       | NOMINATED BY    | SECONDED BY       |
| Shelby McDonald | Mike Wolownik   | Paul Preston      |
| Dan McCulloch   | Kirk Miller Jr. | Shelby McDonald   |
| Don Henry Jr.   | Dick Robison    | Phil Petty        |
| Richard Watson  | Mark Hromek     | John Shepherd Jr. |

| FINANCE COMMITTEE |                   |                      |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| CANDIDATE         | NOMINATED BY      | SECONDED BY          |
| T.J. Strickland   | Paul Preston      | John Crusinberry III |
| William Lorg      | John Shepherd Jr. | Kenny Englert        |
| David Emerson     | Denis Wittman     | Dan McCulloch        |

*A letter was entered into the minutes from David E. Emerson dated 02/05/2011 accepting nomination for Finance Committee.*

| WELDING EXAMINER |               |                 |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| CANDIDATE        | NOMINATED BY  | SECONDED BY     |
| Paul Preston     | Dan McCulloch | Shelby McDonald |

| REFRIGERATION (HVAC) EXAMINER |                |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| CANDIDATE                     | NOMINATED BY   | SECONDED BY    |
| Kenny Englert                 | Richard Taylor | Tony Pierpoint |

| PIPEFITTER EXAMINER |               |                |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| CANDIDATE           | NOMINATED BY  | SECONDED BY    |
| Calvin Startzman    | Dan McCulloch | Richard Watson |

| PLUMBING EXAMINER |                  |               |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| CANDIDATE         | NOMINATED BY     | SECONDED BY   |
| Steve Hogard      | Calvin Startzman | Mike Wolownik |

*A letter was entered into the minutes from Steve Hogard dated 02/03/2011 accepting nomination for Plumbing Examiner*



### QUEST

By Robert W. Harrison,  
Retired, Plumbers and Pipefitters LU 441



A War to end all Wars, they said,  
No more foreign soil to tread,  
Then World War II and Déjà vu;  
They all went forth to pay their dues,  
Then came Korea - far away  
A few more years of dues to pay.  
Forgotten War - Forgotten Men,  
To end a War, or just begin.

Dying men, crying men,  
Come to die once more, to shed their blood,  
And stem the flood of War - and War, and War  
And then came Nam, another Sham,  
Political? - or Greed? Of all good men  
We'd lost in Wars, this War we did not need.  
And then Iraq, the Cruise attack,  
Planes, Missiles, Guns,  
A War to end all Wars you say? -  
Or one that's just begun...



Written for Veteran's Day, 11/10/1998;

In the U.S., Memorial Day is always observed on the last Monday in May. This year that will be Monday, May 30. The holiday honors members of the military who died in service to our country.



## MEMBERS NOMINATED AT THE FEBRUARY 5, 2011 MEETING

| UA CONVENTION DELEGATES  |                          |                      |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| CANDIDATE  | NOMINATED BY             | SECONDED BY          |
| Mike Wolownik  | Dan Egbert               | Shelby McDonald      |
| Randal Rogers  | Tony Pierpoint           | Ray McCorgary        |
| Bill Urton   | Don Henry Jr.            | Paul Preston         |
| Tony Pierpoint   | Randal Rogers            | Roger Peterson       |
| Kirk Miller Jr.  | Phil Petty               | Tony Pierpoint       |
| Mark Hromek  | Richard Watson           | John Crusinberry III |
| Denis Wittman  | Kirk Miller Sr.          | Dan McCulloch        |
| Jerry Short  | Dick Robison             | Don Henry Jr.        |
| Don Henry Jr.  | Bill Urton               | Calvin Startzman     |
| Paul Preston   | Bill Holcomb Jr.         | Richard Watson       |
| John Crusinberry III   | Jack Alonso              | Mark Hromek          |
| Shelby McDonald  | Mike Wolownik            | John Shepherd Jr.    |
| Dan McCulloch  | Calvin Startzman         | Paul Preston         |
| Phil Petty   | Kirk Miller Sr.          | Don Henry Jr.        |
| Don Johnson  | Dick Robison             | Denis Wittman        |
| Kirk Miller Sr.  | Denis Wittman            | Phil Petty           |
| John Shepherd Jr.  | John Robello             | Richard Watson       |
| Mike Magennis  | Gregory "Chase" Williams | Dick Robinson        |
| Gregory "Chase" Williams   | Bill Urton               | Calvin Startzman     |
| Richard Watson   | Mark Hromek              | John Robello         |
| Bill Lorg  | John Shepherd Jr.        | T.J. Strickland      |
| Calvin Startzman   | Paul Preston             | Dan McCulloch        |
| Dave Emerson   | Denis Wittman            | Dan McCulloch        |
| T.J. Strickland  | Bill Urton               | Paul Preston         |
| Ray McCorgary  | Mike Wolownik            | Tony Pierpoint       |
| Rick Salyer  | Kerry Stine              | Kirk Miller Jr.      |
| <i>A letter was entered into the minutes from David Emerson dated 02/05/2011 accepting nomination for UA Convention Delegate.</i>    |                          |                      |
| <i>A letter was entered into the minutes from Rick Salyer dated 02/05/2011 accepting nomination for UA Convention Delegate.</i>      |                          |                      |
| <i>A letter was entered into the minutes from Michael Magennis dated 02/05/2011 accepting nomination for UA Convention Delegate.</i> |                          |                      |

### Wisconsin Vote Outrages Union Leaders By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)—The GOP Wisconsin senate's middle-of-the-night vote on March 9 to approve legislation stripping 200,000 state and local workers of their collective bargaining rights outraged union leaders. Several called it a direct assault on democracy, at least one said their union would support recalling state senators and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said the fed was investigating suing.

The uproar came after Right Wing GOP Gov. Scott Walker removed the "budget" elements from his legislation, eliminating the need for a quorum of 20 state senators to approve it. That left the 19 Republicans – the 14 Democrats had decamped to Illinois to stop the bill – and they voted for Walker's scheme, 18-1. The GOP-run state assembly approved it 53-42.

The vote occurred as hundreds of protesters, representing the tens of thousands of foes of Walker's scheme who had camped out in the state capitol building in Madison for weeks, jeered and booed. The protests will continue, with farmers on tractors joining the workers at the capitol later in the week of March 11.

"Senate Republicans have exercised the nuclear option to ram through their bill attacking Wisconsin's working families in the dark of night," declared state AFL-CIO President Phil Neuenfeldt. "Tonight's events have demonstrated they will do or say anything to pass their extreme agenda that attacks Wisconsin's working families.

"Trampling of the democratic process in Wisconsin shows Scott Walker and the Republicans have been lying throughout this entire process and we have been telling the truth — that NONE of the provisions that attacked workers' rights had anything to do with the budget."

Walker and the GOP "used the process to ram through their payback to their deep-pocketed friends. In the most deplorable manner possible, Republicans rigged a vote that stripped hundreds of thousands of hardworking teachers, nurses, EMTs and others of their rights."

Like other union leaders, including Trumka, Neuenfeldt said the Wisconsin legislation represents "the Republicans' ideological war on the middle class and working families." He called their action "possibly criminal."

[Business Manager's Report continued from Page 1]

There is much more yet to accomplish. 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. We will also continue to strive to make Local 441 a local we can all be proud of. You have my commitment as your Business Manager that we will not let up. It is essential that we pull together as a united group, working for the brotherhood and focusing on what is best for all, not just a few. This is something each of us can work toward, from the first year apprentice to the life member. When the opportunity is presented to get involved in your Local Union, take advantage of it. Make certain that your financial obligations to this local and the United Association are current. This not only ensures you a voice, but also supports the organizations that fight to protect your working conditions and strives to collectively make sure you receive a fair pay and solid benefits for the skillful work you perform.

I have mentioned several times at various union meetings concerning the average age of the United Association work force. It is predicted that during the 2011-2019 time frame the baby boomer population will be retiring and leaving the labor force at levels never seen before. Couple this to a recent report based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Census, the Construction Labor Research Council estimates that the construction industry will need 185,000 new craft workers annually during this time period. We as a local union need to work together to make sure we do have a qualified trained work force to step up and fill the positions that are going to be vacated.

Opportunities for employment in our industry do appear to be on the increase. Just in the past few weeks several projects, both commercial and industrial, have come out for bid and it also appears that most are tagged to be awarded to our signatory contractors. These projects should prove to be a valuable source of employment for many Local 441 members.

Holcomb is going through the court process with lawsuits filed by the environmental groups. I remain in constant communication with our friends at Sunflower Electric Corporation. So far nothing has come up that was not expected and they feel confident the process will continue as planned and anticipate ground breaking late this year.

As we move through the summer months, 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.

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

### Manhattan/Fort Riley Area



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I want to thank the Brothers from throughout Local 441 that came to work and helped complete numerous projects in this area. Unfortunately new work was not available and lay-offs have occurred. UA Contractors have bid projects in the area and wait for them to be awarded. Two of the larger projects are the new Army Hospital and the Utility Plant for the NBAF Facility.

Paul Goscha recently gave me a copy of the **1937 Plumber and Steamfitter's Local 609, Manhattan, Kansas, Collective Bargaining Agreement**. Paul's wife found it in her relation's papers and I would like to share it with you.

#### WAGE AGREEMENT

It is hereby agreed by and between the Master Plumbers of Manhattan, Kansas, and the Journeyman Plumbers and Steamfitters of Local Union No. 609, of Manhattan, Kansas, that the scale of wages of the journeyman Plumbers and Steamfitters shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) per hour between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.; and overtime, between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 8:00 A.M. of the next day, shall be counted as time and a half, while Sundays and Holidays shall be counted as double time.

This agreement shall start May 1, 1937, and remain in force for a period of one year, and shall be renewed yearly unless notice is given to the parties of a desire to make a change thirty days before the expiration of any yearly period.

**MASTER PLUMBERS**  
Manhattan Sheet Metal Co.  
C.A. Powell, Son  
Standard Plbg. P.S.M. Co.  
Walters Plumbing Co.  
Oberland Bros.

**JOURNEYMAN PLUMBERS**  
H.W. Brooks, President

#### ADDENDA:

Holidays mentioned in this wage agreement are as follows: New Year's Day (Jan. 1st), Memorial Day (May 31st), Independence Day (July 4th), Labor Day (First Monday in September), Thanksgiving Day (Last Thursday in November), Christmas Day (December 25th).

Wages were the entire agreement in 1937. Today's Collective Bargaining Agreements address so many more issues that a multiple page book is required. Even with so much included in the agreement, gray areas continue to surface. Contractors and Members don't have one contract to understand and abide by, there are many. From the simple to the more complex, they are all written based on a common principle as explained in the UA Constitution's Preamble: "Recognizing the right of the employer or capitalist to control his capital, we also claim and will exercise the right to control our labor, and be consulted in determining the price paid for it."

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



### UPCOMING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

#### 2011 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Monday, May 30th - Memorial Day Holiday (All Zones)
- Monday, July 4th - July 4th Holiday (All Zones)
- Monday, September 5th - Labor Day Holiday (All Zones)
- Thursday, November 24th - Thanksgiving Day Holiday (All Zones)
- Friday, November 25th - Day After Thanksgiving Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)
- Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)
- Monday, December 26th - Christmas Day Holiday (All Zones)

### Lawrence Area



Dear Brothers & Sisters,  
Work in the area is still holding for the present time. Chaney's men are doing a fine job on the Neosho County Community College in Ottawa and it is close to completion.

P1 has been doing a good job at the Ottawa hospital job and it also getting close to completion. P1 also did the Lawrence Hospital remodel and it is now complete. Fab shop in Lawrence has work for now. Power House still going strong. Wolf Creek is getting ready for a nice outage. This should keep quite a few men working for awhile. Several small jobs are being worked on at the KU Campus. ICL has a couple of small jobs going now and should have work through the summer.

Lawrence will be having a City Commission Election on April 5, 2011. Those running that need help from the Lawrence members are: Mike Machell, Hugh Carter, and Mike Dever. All three men will help with the City of Lawrence and our membership on issues such as taxes and jobs in the area. If you live in the City of Lawrence, please remember to vote.

Fraternally yours,  
Denis Wittman (785) 843-3151  
Lawrence Business Representative  
930 E. 28th Street, Lawrence, KS 66046

### SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

It's a new world out there, and we at Local 441 are determined to become a part of the electronic age, whether we like it or not. For years we have communicated with our members through regular mail. When it came time to announce a meeting or inform the members about a special issue, we always sent a letter.

Not that there is anything wrong with the mail. We continue to do the vast bulk of our business by mail, but in some cases it is quicker, easier, and far less expensive to be able to send an e-mail to members. At least it *would* be if we had email addresses for our members! Please complete the form below and mail it to 1330 E 1<sup>st</sup> St N, Ste 115, Wichita, Ks 67214 OR send us an email at [email@ua441.org](mailto:email@ua441.org).

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Name             |  |
| Address          |  |
| City, State, Zip |  |
| Phone #'s: Home  |  |
| Cell             |  |
| Email Address    |  |

**An affront against one is an affront against all.**

Visit YOUR website: [www.UA441.org](http://www.UA441.org)

**Frontenac Area**

Dear Brothers:

Now that 2011 has started and we know the outcome of the election, it is time to get ready for the fallout of the chaos going on in Washington D.C. and Wisconsin.



We have our own battle in Kansas regarding the attack on Unions. They will NOT STOP until middle class workers have lost everything we have worked so hard to accomplish.

Keep a watchful eye on the following house bills: HB 2130, HB 2139, and HB 2134. We must VOTE in friendly people for the working class. It will be hard to get back what we will inevitably lose this term. VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

The work in southeast Kansas is still slow, with one job let early this month at PSU looks like we lost it – call for an update. Murray Construction will manage the building of a 60,000 sq. ft. new hospital in Iola. Ground breaking is expected sometime this fall. Currently, we do have contractors from Wichita and Kansas City looking at bidding this job.

The Via Christi (Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center-Pittsburg) fourth floor remodel drawing should be out March 10th. General Contractors will bid this job on April 1st.

I am working on getting a meeting set up with each of the above-mentioned hospital boards to explain what LU 441 and the building trades in our area spend yearly in their facility on Health Care.

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

**Topeka Area East**

Brothers and Sisters,

This legislative session in Kansas is in some respects worse than Wisconsin with a lot of union bashing and geared for the wealthy. With 650 or so bills, some of the bills we are following, working on, and/or talking and testifying on just to list a few: SB 171-Reinstatement of Prevailing Wage; SB 181-E-Verify; SB 219-Wage Payment Act; HB 2026-E-Verify; HB 2082-Inspection of Medical Gas; HB 2088-Sprinklers in Residential; HB 2130-Union PAC Fund Check Off (Silence of the Opposition); HB 2131-Classification of Employees (Immigration); HB 2134-Amending Workman's Compensation (not good), HB 2135



- Misclassification of Employees as Independent Contractors (To Avoid Taxes on Illegal Immigrants); HB 2222-Anti-Union on State Employees (Divide and Conquer Bill); HB 2223-E-Verify (another version); HB 2244-Continuing Education in the Plumbing and Electrical Fields.

We are working harder to lose more after the last election. We are hoping for spring to bring some work to the area. In the slow time, use the time for different upgrades and licenses to help insure our futures.

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

**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:**  
**March 14, April 11, May 9**  
**UA LOCAL #441 RETIREE MEETINGS**

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

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

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

**Temp Workers at Uranium Plant Risk Disaster, Report Warns**

"It's not a question of if, but when a disaster will occur" at the nation's largest uranium processing plant, says a local lawmaker responding to a new safety report. The "Communities at Risk?" report released in mid January by Steelworkers Local 7-669 highlighted potential hazards by the use of temporary, unskilled workers hired by Honeywell International during a six-month lockout of union members at the uranium processing plant in Metropolis, Ill. "We've become gravely concerned for the safety of the greater Metropolis-Paducah (KY) community, especially since the Dec. 22 release of hydrofluoric acid, the NRC citations and the pending OSHA inspection of the Honeywell plant," said Darrell Lillie, USW Local 7-669 President. The union represents 230 workers locked out by the company since Jun. 28.

"In light of the community safety report, it is irresponsible for Honeywell to keep operating," said Illinois State Rep. Phelps, who added that "The warning signs were made clear in the report. It's not a question of if, but when a disaster will occur." Products made or used at Metropolis Works include uranium hexafluoride, a radioactive substance used to produce nuclear energy, sulfuric acid, potassium hydroxide and ammonia.

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

**Labor Plans Mass Mobilization April 4**

Labor plans a national mass mobilization on April 4 to support workers' rights, specifically the right to collectively bargain.

The decision was reached at the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Washington, March 1-2. The word was passed to activists from the Communications Workers, the Teachers, other unions, allied student, civil rights and environmental groups and others.

They were asked to dream up events at work places to show solidarity with workers who are standing up for their rights, notably public workers in Ohio, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Indiana and other states.

Suggestions for solidarity include vigils at houses of worship, wearing red pro-worker clothing, and demonstrations and marches on city halls and state capitols.

Organizers of the mass mobilization chose April 4 because on that day in 1968, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., while campaigning for the right of 1,300 city sanitation workers – all of them African-American men – to organize and bargain on their own behalf, through joining AFSCME.

**CONTACTS**

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

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

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

**Health & Welfare Office**  
[www.ppi-fund.org](http://www.ppi-fund.org)  
(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517  
**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas**  
[www.BCBSKS.com](http://www.BCBSKS.com)  
(800) 432-3990 or (785) 291-4180

**Delta Dental of Kansas**  
[www.DeltaDentalKS.com](http://www.DeltaDentalKS.com)  
(800) 234-3375 or (316) 264-4511

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

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

National Pension (800) 638-7442  
Local Pension/KS Annuity  
(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

United Association Website: [www.UA.org](http://www.UA.org)

## Apprentice News By Kerry Stine, Training Director

### The Training Program has been going well.

With the start of the New Year, the pace has picked up in the office due to preparations for the Apprentice application period that takes place the first two weeks in March (March 7-18) with applications being taken at the Workforce Centers around the state. Four of the seven class rotations have been completed and we can begin to see the end of the first year of day school training. The instructors continue to improve on the training center and if any of our members or contractors are in the Wichita area, we would love to give you a tour of the facility and show you what takes place in the classroom.

We are starting to prepare for the Apprenticeship Contest. The State competition will take place at the beginning of May and then be followed up in June by the Regional competition at LU 597 in Mokena, IL. In preparation for the contest, we have received several prizes from vendors for the welding and pipefitter competition and also from LU 441 nice leather and wool jackets for all four crafts. Stop by the PPATKS office to view the jackets.

Special thanks to Dicky Robison who provided OSHA 10 instruction for 42 Journeymen on short notice at Wolf Creek Nuclear Facility and at the Frontenac Training facility in early February, as well as Garth Leep providing OSHA 10 training in Wichita for 13 Journeymen.

### Instructor Ken Englert

The last six months Local 441 has experienced numerous turnarounds, plant shut downs and outages, with our apprentices contributing to the success of these projects. With the flexibility of the day school schedule and the help of the contractors and their supervisors, the apprentices have been able to work these projects and still maintain their opportunity to get an education. That education includes many of the certifications and hands on skills required to help meet the needs and schedules of these projects.

### Instructor Steve Hogard

We had 25 apprentices pass the Backflow Prevention Device Certifications in January and February. Just finished with Medical Gas Installer/Brazier and had a total of 33 and waiting on the results of braze and written tests. Then in December and January, 30 apprentices completed OSHA 30. We are just starting classes for 3rd year plumber apprentices in Plumbing Code and hope to be sending them for their Block Journeyman/Gas Plumbing license as soon as June.

### Instructor Paul Preston

Some of the statistics for this year on the welding side are: 36 new weld certifications were issued since the beginning of the school year, five of them are apprentices. Hopefully, we will triple the apprentice certifications that by the end of the school year. The Star Pipefitter exam was given to three fifth-year apprentices: Christopher Neel, Anthony Hagar and Logan Kelly on February 16, all making very high scores. There are two more testing dates set up for March.

We have been upgrading the facilities in Frontenac with new stands and in the weld booths and new lighting. Topeka's weld booths received new curtains and grinders for every booth.

Special training for Journeyman welders going to Wolf Creek Nuclear in the Flux-core process, with great results – 30 welders tested for Atlantic Plant Maintenance and 30 passed weld tests.

We are also planning some Special Welding Events in Wichita towards the end of the school year. Six groups of students will take UA tests during the last rotation of the year.

UA weld certification testing dates: March 26 in Frontenac, April 23 in Topeka and May 21 in Wichita.

### Instructor Dan McCulloch

GOOD NEWS! Next school year we will implement the beginning of a five-year HVAC Program which will be providing our service techs with more training. Green Awareness Certifications were awarded to eight 4th- and 5th-year plumbing apprentices from the HVAC department. All of the HVAC apprentices are certified in EPA Universal and 410A.

Congratulations to Andrew Wills, 3rd year, for receiving his Block Journeyman License. Five apprentices tested out on February 26 for their Block Journeyman Mechanical License and one for Block Masters Mechanical License.

There will be 12 3rd-year pipefitters testing for their Block Journeymen Plumbing License scheduled April 16. The 5th-year HVAC apprentices are testing for the HVAC R Mastery Star exam at the end of March and early April. As soon as that test is complete we will be getting "someone" ready for the Regional Apprenticeship Contest in June.

### Instructor Calvin Startzman

In January, I attended training and received the NCCCO Accredited Practical Examiner for signal person and will start training to qualify signal persons.

We have tube bending classes teaching apprentices how to bend different angles, rolling offsets, and running parallel for steam tracing and instruments. The 1st and 2nd year apprentices have been working on drawing, which includes drawing their own isometrics. Pipefitting classes have been going very well. The students have built a trainer that is in the pictures. These headers that are shown have flanges that are on odd angles and also off on some of the two hole. They are required to build an isometric drawing and make a material list prior to starting. The project is built in the jack stands, not on the header. After it is completed it is installed. They have also made a small tank for piping and mounted some pumps on a frame that they can also pipe up. They are graded on drawings, material list, welds, fit and production.

**We are looking for gate valves, check valves, globe valves and control valves from 2" to 6", 150# and 300#, for this project to help with take offs and steam tracing.** If you can come up with some, it will be appreciated.



Our computer lab for testing for the NITC, Blackboard, and ESCO with more testing to come. Instructors Calvin Startzman and Steve Hogard with apprentices Rick Scott Jr, Daniel Korp, Thomas Luper, Allan Conn, Jacob Parks, Kyle Towns and Joshua Helm.



Apprentices Clint Mayer and Kyle Kettler (4th year-Group 1)



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