Business Manager’s Report

Presidential Election

This coming November will be the time to go back to our polling places and make our voices heard. As most of you know, the United Association was the first labor organization to support the re-election of President Obama. In announcing the endorsement last March, UA General President William P. Hite emphasized the President’s economic leadership over the last three years. “President Obama took office in the midst of our nation’s most serious economic crisis since the Great Depression,” Hite said. “In the three months preceding the President’s inauguration alone, the U.S. economy shed 1.5 Million jobs. However, because of his extraordinary leadership in stabilizing the financial system and securing passage of the Recovery Act, we were able to avoid a repeat of the Great Depression and are now on a path to recovery that will ultimately leave our economy stronger and more resilient for the future.”

General President Hite also stressed that “in addition to stabilizing the economy, President Obama has secured multiple major legislative victories on behalf of America’s working families. His Recovery Act created or saved upwards of 3.6 million American jobs and made a critical down payment on America’s clean energy future. His landmark healthcare reform legislation has eliminated some of the worst abuses of the healthcare industry and will expand coverage to more than 32 million Americans, including 4 million children (see Joe Pucci’s article on page 3).

In terms of financial reforms, the President initiatives have helped clean up Wall Street and put in place the strongest consumer protections our country has ever seen to guard against predatory lending and other fraudulent practices in the U.S. financial sector.”

No other President in recent history has been so solidly behind the building trades and working families of America as Barack Obama has been. Some of his achievements accomplished during his first term in office include:

- The American Recovery and Jobs Act
- Health Care Reform
- Extended Unemployment and COBRA Benefits
- Rescued and Revitalized America’s Auto Industry
- A pro-PLA Policy for Federal Building Projects
- The promotion of energy-efficient building retrofits
- Expanding the development of oil and gas resources
- NLRB regulations

The President’s dedication to all of us in the building trades, the labor movement and working families is evident. He has fought hard for the rights and interests of working families. It is hard to understand how anyone involved in labor could not dedicate their time and energy to his re-election, let alone not vote for him. His re-election is vital to our future.

For the eight years prior to the Obama Administration the labor movement was basically ignored while corporate America marched on. If we want to be successful and strong we cannot allow labor to be ignored. This country will not thrive unless labor remains as the backbone of this great country. For that to continue the men and women who are vital to its core must be at the table participating and making sure that we are heard.

Please take the time to weigh your decision carefully. This President has proven that he stands with labor and working families. He has proven that he will fight for laws that level the playing field for all of us and not just the corporations and the wealthy. So if these things are important to you, your family, your career in the trades, your fellow union brothers and sisters, please vote to re-elect President Obama this coming November.

LOOKING AHEAD

The first quarter of 2012 was one of the best Local 441 has had. Although we have slipped into a bit of a lull the past couple months, it looks like the work will continue to pick up as we move through the rest of the year. Ethanol plants, fall outages, and large commercial projects are kicking off and it appears they should pick up the slack for much of the membership.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer as we move into fall. Thank you for the support that you have given to this local and to me as your business manager. I consider it an honor and privilege to serve the men and women of Plumbers and Pipefitters 441. Enjoy the rest of this summer and Labor Day weekend. Be sure to spend time with those we all work the hardest for, our families. Stay safe on the job and God Bless.
Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

As we head into early fall I expect our work to pick up again. Local 441 has had a tremendous first half with outages working overtime as well as good long term 40-hour work. That being said we knew there would be a one to two month lull before fall.

Upcoming work will be the Mars Plant in the Topeka area, lola Hospital, two Ethanol plants (one in Goodland and one in Oakley). Waldinger was awarded the new airport in Wichita which should start early next year. We also have upcoming outages at Lawrence Energy and Wolf Creek. So all in all I think our work looks good for at least the next six months.

Local 441 has seen difficult times over the last couple years but it looks like we are beginning to recover. It is important that our contractors continue to be successful on bids and be profitable. It’s a two way street, our contractors agree to pay good wages and benefits and we sell them, individually and as a local union, our trained skills and knowledge. That is the difference between our labor force and the non-union. That difference is primarily related to our apprentice training and journeyman training. Take advantage of upgrading your skills with our training department! With having a day school and full time instructors our local has reached a new level for being the best.

I urge every member to be the best workers they can be and if we do that along with our training, our contractors and Local Union cannot be competed with.

Work safe and spend time with family and friends.

Fraternally,

Bill Urton (316) 265-4291

Business Representative/Dispatcher

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Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Area Picnics

FRONTENAC AREA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lincoln Park Shelter #3, Pittsburg, KS (W 12th & 69 Bypass, go east one block at Lincoln Park)

WICHITA AREA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2012, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Blvd, Wichita, Kansas

TOPEKA & LAWRENCE AREA
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Crestview Shelter House, 4901 SW Shunga Dr, Topeka, Kansas

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org!
Contentment
By Kerry Stine, Training Director
When not working as Training Director for Plumbers & Pipefitters Apprenticeship Training of Kansas, one of the great opportunities I have is to work with the kids program of NewSpring Church in Wichita, KS. Every month we have a new concept that we work on with the kids and we have what’s called the Big Idea that helps us to bring that concept into focus. This month’s Big Idea is: Contentment – Choosing to be happy with what you’ve got. That concept got me to thinking about the training program and how contentment relates to it.

Six years ago I came on as Training Director. It was less than a year since the training programs of the four zones had been consolidated. For a few years we were content to let things ride and focus on what had been achieved in that consolidation. Work was good and we were taking on more apprentices than we ever had. Most of our work was located around Frontenac, Lawrence, Topeka and Wichita. There seemed like there was little reason to change the structure of the training program, but the UA was starting to push the concept of Daytime Training to provide a better learning environment for the apprentice.

In the fall of 2008 the downturn came. We went from having 185 apprentices working and none on the bench, to having over 40 on the bench for an extended period of time. Contractors started having to look further away from their home base to get work. To get that work, they needed to get their costs down and their productivity up. It was becoming increasingly difficult for apprentices to get to class due to the distance from the job site. We could no longer be content with the way things were. Change was necessary; the question was what kind of change.

The State Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee began to look at options for increasing the effectiveness of the apprenticeship training program in a way that would optimize the ability of the apprentices to attend class. Different training concepts around the country were looked at and even a few trips were taken to look at various training programs and talk to their staff. It was finally decided that Des Moines, IA, Local 33, was similar to our situation. They had a fairly large local, geographically, and they had gone through a similar consolidation. Initially, there was resistance from the membership and the contractors, but after several years they were very happy with the program and wished they had done it years before. That was the model that we would follow.

In 2010, we embarked on our journey into Day School Training. It has been a fast two years. Many changes have been made. While there was resistance in the beginning, from some of the contractors and some of the apprentices, the opinion of the vast majority is now positive. Occasionally, I hear that we should have done this years ago. I have to say that I am content with the changes that have been made in the program and I hope that you see the value and benefit of our Day School Program. It would be easy to sit back, be content and let things ride. That’s the easy way, but not necessarily the best way.

If there are ways to make the program better, then we need to embrace those ways. If there are people out there with innovative ideas, then we need those people active in the program. Change is Life. If change stops, decline follows and that ultimately ends in death. We need to be content with those changes that are for the good, but constantly be looking for those changes that will make us even better. Change will come again for Plumbers & Pipefitters Apprenticeship Training of Kansas, it’s just a matter of when.

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Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry
Health and Welfare Plan of Kansas
By Joe Pucci, Administrator for the Trustees
The Trustees of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Health and Welfare Plan of Kansas received proposals from AETNA, CIGNA and BCBS at a Trustee Meeting in April 2012. The Trustees were impressed with and very interested in the CIGNA proposal. In fact they decided to change our “Administrative Services Provider” from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBS) to CIGNA unless better terms could be obtained from BCBS in our Contract. The cost for services was not an issue, all the proposals contained about the same fixed costs. In fact Blue Cross and Blue Shield’s fixed cost was slightly lower than CIGNA or AETNA. BCBS decided to compromise with the Trustees and we retained the Contract provisions which, if changed as proposed, could have cost our Plan many dollars. We will continue to solicit competitive bids from various providers to secure the best quality of service at a fair price for the membership and their families.

The health care arena is constantly changing and we need to be nimble and prepared to respond to those changes in order to secure the best level of service for you, the Plan Participant.

The Trustees have entered into an arrangement with “Taft Hartley Services.” Many of you may remember Patrick Donohue, an experienced and knowledgeable health care professional. Pat is the President of Taft Hartley Services and has agreed to serve as a consultant for our Plan. Mr. Donohue was responsible for developing a “Request for Proposal” and obtaining bids from AETNA, CIGNA and BCBS for the Trustees. Pat was the previous Administrator of our Plan and is a welcome and needed addition to our staff.

In my opinion, all of our Participants and their dependents should be pleased by the decision of the Court. Much of the mandated coverage was already a part of our Plan, but the Affordable Care Act also eliminated limits on essential health benefits, pre-existing condition restrictions, life time medical benefit limits and made many other positive and desirable changes, including the extending coverage to age 26 for dependent children. The Act also seeks to expand coverage to include 30 million uninsured Americans through its subsidies, the expansion of Medicaid, and an expected increase in participation through an employer and individual mandate.

Probably the most important change for our Plan was the requirement that certain employers must in the future either provide real health insurance to employees or pay into a pool which will cover these employees. This will help level the playing field for Local 441. No longer will non-union contractors be able to provide “sham insurance” or no insurance. They must either establish their own self-funded groups, buy insurance acceptable under the Act or pay the price to cover their employees under the mandated pool. This should greatly help our Contributing Employers when bidding against contractors that in the past did not provide health insurance or provided substandard coverage.

Many more changes are needed and I believe will be made to our Plan and the U.S. health care system. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that the United States spends a higher portion of its gross domestic product (GDP) than any other country for health care (about 17%), but ranks 37 out of 191 countries according to its performance. The United Kingdom, which spends just six percent of GDP on health services, ranks 18th. Several small countries – San Marino, Andorra, Malta and Singapore are rated close behind 2nd placed Italy. WHO found that France has the best health care system in the world. Columbia achieved a high ranking because someone with a low income might pay the equivalent of one dollar per year for health care, while a high income individual pays 7.6 dollars.

Once our Nation realizes the benefit of these changes, I think any politician that tries to roll back the clock will find themselves out of a job. Many complaints are heard about Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Unemployment Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance. Most of these complaints are coming from those who would benefit the most if these programs were eliminated. Yet they survive. Why? Because politicians know that any move to eliminate these programs will result in the loss of their jobs. I think the same thing will happen with health care reform. In spite of all the complaints, once we have these benefits, all working people will vote to keep them.

Time will tell I guess, but change is inevitable. I think that is enough for now. All of us at the Fund Office hope you and yours have a happy and healthy year.


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Has the recent redistricting confused you?
Not sure who to vote for?
Check out the helpful "Election 2012" links on www.UA441.org.

Job Hotline: (316) 269-2472
There was great weather, great participation, and great camaraderie for the 2012 Local 441 Kansas Golf Tournament on June 2 in Topeka. George Harris won “Longest Drive in the Fairway,” Robin Golden won “Longest Putt,” Dale Golder hit “Closest to the Pin,” and Mike Wolownik had the “Shortest Drive in the Fairway.” A prize was also given to the last-place team, consisting of Jonathan Robello, Jerry Short, Rich Watson and Mike Gooze.

Thanks to member participation and sponsorships, the event netted $2,853 for the UA Scholarship Fund. Because of our donation to the Fund, the kids of two local members will receive college scholarship money to help with their educations.


Members of Local 441 and friends of Kenny Coester (seated on left) attended a benefit fundraiser for Brother Coester to help with his expected medical treatment expenses. We wish Brother Coester the best of luck with prayers for his speedy recovery.
Apprenticeship Contest

Four UA 441 members were sent to Chicago in June to compete in the Regional Apprenticeship Contest. Each apprentice competed in one of the four categories.

Matt Wingert competed in the Welding category.

Shane Glazier competed in the Pipefitting competition.

Chad Brucken competed in Plumbing.

Kyndel Paulsen in HVAC component.

Kerry Stine was in charge of tabulating scores at the contest.
Lawrence Area

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Local 441 members are currently working on unit 4 at the Powerhouse. This outage should start in August to tie the new bag house in. The bag house on unit 5 went into production this past spring and is working fine. These new units will improve the air quality. Thanks to Westar for the upgrades.

The hospital in Lawrence has had three remodels in the past three years. Currently, we have men on the job. The upgrades are great improvements to the hospital and will help to provide better services to their patients.

Fab shops in Lawrence and at Taylor Forge have work and should for the rest of the year.

Picnic for Topeka and Lawrence will be held on October 13, 2012, at the Crestview Shelter House in Topeka starting around 10 a.m. Always a good time, so come and enjoy. We’re looking forward to seeing you there.

Everyone in the area has the opportunity to work. There may be some travel involved but work is out there with the Fort Riley hospital and the Mars Plant in production.

Remember the elections that will be coming up in November. Be sure and get out there and register to vote. Pay attention to your labor friendly candidates and support them.

Hope everyone had a safe and happy summer.

Fraternally yours,

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

Frontenac Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It’s going to be a tough fight, Brothers and Sisters, so get ready and stand tall! The upcoming Presidential race has Obama and Romney facing off and the subject of LABOR is at the center of the ring. Of course, as you already know, President Obama is fighting hard for LABOR and the working man. This is going to be a close race.

Reportedly, only 2 to 3 percentage points separate these candidates. I challenge each and every member of Local 441 to help a neighbor or a family member that may not registered to vote get registered to vote for the General Election. Below is a link which you can access and register online at http://kssos.org/elections_registration.html

Please get involved. Many races across our state, Senate, House and County are very contentious. It is imperative we work hard to keep our important issues from being buried in all the mudslinging.

Brothers, it’s hard to believe, but as the great political strategist James Carville said “the Republicans are angrier at Mitt Romney than they are at President Obama because of the presumptive GOP nominee’s refusal to release complete financial records complicated what should have been an easily winnable 2012 Election.”

Another GOP hot button is that Romney is running for President and holds assets in a Swiss Bank account. Clearly he is not helping himself by making his fellow Republicans angry with his antics. Brothers and sisters… this is why we need to get out and vote. Keep President Obama in office and get this country turned around. Especially if you carry a lunch box!

SOUTHEAST KANSAS NEWS

The Iola Hospital project is taking off. It started in July and is going very well. P1 will bid more work in the area very soon. Service work in the area is going well. There are more contractors bidding in Southeast Kansas and some are getting the much needed work. Currently, we have a contractor bidding work at the fertilizer plant in Coffeyville. Riverton/Empire Company Scope of work for the #12 Repowering 168 MW NG-Fired Simple-Cycle Siemens & convert to Combined-Cycle Configuration by adding Heat Recovery Steam Generator HRSG and 80-100 MW Steam Turbine. We do and will have Union contractors bidding this project. Starting site work mid-2013.

Best Wishes! And be SAFE!

Fraternally Yours,

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

Ronald (Rick) Brooks, 64, died November 22, 2011. Most recently of Topeka, Ks. Brother in good standing for 40 years.


William E. Robinson, 89, died May 5, 2012. Most recently of Arkansas City, Ks. Brother in good standing for 64 years.


Mark C. Watson, 70, died May 11, 2012. Most recently of Peru, Ks. Brother in good standing for 46 years.

Notices of brothers and sisters who have passed on are posted on our website as received: www.ua441.org. Click on “Member Information” and “In Memoriam.”
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.ppatkss.org

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

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

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

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas www.BCBSKS.com
(800) 432–3990 or (785) 291–4180

Delta Dental of Kansas www.DeltaDentALKS.com
(800) 234–3375 or (316) 264–4511

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

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

National Pension (800) 638–7442

Local Pension/KS Annuity (316) 264–2339 or (800) 423–6517

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 1-866-577-7101, option 5, 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.

Labor Roots Important for Many Obama Appointments

It’s easy to criticize President Barack Obama for the things we all wish he could have gotten done during his first term. And if you listen to Fox News you could easily believe that President Obama has done nothing but lead the country down the road toward socialist ruin.

The truth is actually quite different. Numerous changes have been made, both through legislation and executive action. But perhaps nothing has as much day-to-day effect on the lives of working people as President Obama’s appointments, both the administrative agencies and to the federal courts. Here are just some of the supporters of working people and organized labor who have been appointed by President Obama.

President’s Export Council — William Hite (General President of the United Association)
Secretary of Labor — Daughter of a Teamster organizer and a United Rubber Worker 20-year member
Solicitor of Labor — M. Patricia Smith, former New York State Commissioner of Labor
NLRB Board Members — Richard F. Griffin, Jr., Mark G. Pearce, Terrance F. Flynn
NLRB General Counsel — Lafe Solomon
Director of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service — George H. Cohen
DOL/OSHA Administrator — Professor David Michaels
DOL/Mine Safety & Health Administrator — Joseph (Joe) A. Main
DOL/Employee Benefits Administrator — Phyllis C. Borzi
FLRA Member & General Counsel — Carol Waller Pope
White House Middle Class Task Force — Led by Vice President Joe Biden
...and numerous federal judges from the ranks of union and labor lawyers.

More info:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB100014240527020351360457714141919152318.html
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/04/obama-nlrb-recess-appointments-labor-unions_n_1184285.html

2012 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Monday, September 3rd
Labor Day Holiday (All Zones)

Thursday, November 22nd
Thanksgiving Day Holiday (All Zones)

Friday, November 23rd
Day After Thanksgiving Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)

Monday December 24th
Christmas Eve Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)

Tuesday, December 25th
Christmas Day Holiday (All Zones)

Labor Day Marks Beginning of Union Label Week

From Labor Day, Monday, September 3, through Sunday September 9, 2012, American labor will observe Union Label Week—the time traditionally set aside for union families and all consumers to make a special effort to support good jobs by looking for union-made goods and union-produced services when they shop.

When you buy union, you support good jobs in American communities, jobs that provide living wages and benefits, safe working conditions and dignity and respect for work.

For more information, check out www.UnionLabel.org or www.unionplus.org/buy-union-made.

[Despite the hot weather, the holidays are just around the corner ... remember to spend your money where it will benefit other workers and the USA!]

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

**Years of Service Pins and Certificates**

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

- **Clarence R. Allison** (60)
- **Clifford Delay** (60)
- **Darrel M. Webb** (60)
- **Richard C. Gallagher** (55)
- **Robert W. Harrison** (55)
- **Carroll L. Peterson** (55)
- **Ralph Sagerty** (50)
- **Earl H. Headgopath** (50)
- **Walter Shook** (50)
- **Floyd Drinnen** (50)
- **Richard L. Goertzen** (50)
- **Roger D. Naylor** (50)
- **Keith E. Pinkston** (50)
- **David Delay and his father, Clifford Delay,**
  both received awards for their many years of service.
- **John W. Donaldson** (50)
- **Fred Silver** (45)
- **Paul W. Williams** (50)
- **Bill C. Ballard** (45)
- **Lawrence Chaplin** (45)
- **Floyd A. Goerzen** (45)
- **Daniel R. Ricketts** (45)
- **Alfred J. Schuster** (45)
- **Jerry J. Wood** (45)
- **David A. Delay** (35)
- **Clyde J. Smith** (35)
- **Richard C. Turpin** (35)

*Like Father, Like Son*

David Delay and his father, Clifford Delay, both received awards for their many years of service. David has been a Plumber and Pipefitter with UA 441 for 35 years, and Clifford began his membership in 1952.

Visit YOUR website: www.UA441.org