Riley and Geary Counties Employ Fair Contractors

The Topeka area has several major projects at Kansas State University and Fort Riley.

Waldinger has a tunnel job at K-State. Our members are replacing steam pipe as part of an energy-saving upgrade. They are taking out the hi and low pressure systems and replacing them with a high pressure system with several reducing stations.

MSI is doing the underground for a new Bioscience building at K-State. They are employing over 40 of our members with 3 stewards.

Huxtabelle’s job at the Irwin Army Hospital is continuing for another year.

The Walsh Group has doubled their workload with additional contracts. Walsh is a third-generation Chicago business that uses Union Labor and Union Subcontractors.

Topeka Business Representative Kirk Miller says every working member on these jobs have signed up to contribute to our PAC fund. He extends special thanks to Steward Matt Gleaves at Walsh, John Vansickle at Waldinger and Jim Kolde at MSI and the members who have helped them get the 100% PAC fund participation.

Frank Ford’s 50 years

Business Manager Richard Taylor presented past Financial Secretary Frank Ford with his 50-year membership pin, certificate and UA watch. Ford passed a few weeks later on June 11.

Members Volunteer for “His Helping Hands”

The Mechanical & Sheet Metal Contractors association asked Local #441 to provide donated labor in a joint effort to support a non-denominational ministry building project.

His Helping Hands has built a 27,000 square foot facility to collect, store and distribute donated secondhand clothing, furniture, appliances and other items. The new building is located at 1441 E. 37th North near Hydraulic in Wichita. Jim Snodgrass, retired from Snodgrass Construction managed the project.

Members working on the building have included Jack Hays, Tim Hoover, Brandon Kearney, Rich Taylor and C.W. Clem.

The ministry is a three-year-old program of the Central Christian Church. A church member donated the 18 acres of land upon which the building sits.

His Helping Hands has been working out of an old warehouse adjacent to the site. Currently, 100 families a week are being served. The new building has an additional 10,000 square feet with a walk-in freezer for food storage and shower and laundry service for the homeless.

Donations and volunteers are needed. Call 838-8528 for more information. The ministry hands out items on Saturday mornings and during the week upon referral from nonprofit organizations.

Goldman Sachs & Kelso Buys Coffeyville Resources

The private-equity arm of the Goldman Sachs Group and the private-equity firm Kelso and Co has purchased former Farmland Industries.

Last year, Coffeyville Resources, an affiliate of Pegasus Capital Advisors L.P., and others acquired a majority interest in the Coffeyville refinery and fertilizer plant that was in bankruptcy. Pegasus had planned to take the refinery public this year. That plan was cancelled after they reached an agreement with Goldman and Kelso.

Jack Lipinski has been named Chief executive Officer of Coffeyville Resources. Lipinski has 30 years experience in the petroleum and nitrogen fertilizer industries. He has a Chemical Engineering Bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers University. He has three patents including one for an environmental control device.

The refinery is a 100,000 barrel-a-day producer and has an adjacent nitrogen fertilizer plant. The company has said that there are no plans to reorganize the current workforce. They will remain headquartered in Kansas City.
Local 441 Members,

I would like to start by congratulating and welcoming your newly elected Officers highlighted in this addition of your Kansas Direct Pipeline. On July 30, 2005, we conducted our first quarterly meeting of all elected Officers and appointed Business Representatives and Organizers. This was a very positive meeting with much discussion and ideal sharing. I want to commend the membership for the excellent insight they have shown in electing Officers that are fair-minded and dedicated to improving the future of Local Union 441.

I am excited to announce that I have selected Mike Wolownik and Denis Wittman to serve Local 441 as new area Business Representatives. Brother Wolownik will be overseeing Zone I-B, Frontenac area, and Brother Wittman will be overseeing Zone II-B, Lawrence area. There are numerous reasons why I feel Mike and Denis will be great Representatives of the local union and membership, but the number one reason is that Mike and Denis both have the type of integrity and dedication that I want my administration to reflect. I have confidence that they will prove to be an asset to the members in their zones as well as to our local union, as we forge on in our fight to protect and promote fair wages and conditions in our industry.

In the past election, the membership had elected Brother Wittman to the Finance Committee. Denis has decided with his appointment to Business Representative, and the commitment that position will demand, he will resign his position on the Finance Committee. As I announced at the last regular union meeting, I have submitting to the Executive Board for their approval Brother David Emerson to fill that vacancy. The memberships input in this past election made David’s selection an easy choice as David received the next highest number of votes among the candidates who sought that office.

I have also submitted a request to the membership to make application for the position of Business Representative for Zone I-A, Wichita area. This will give our local one Business Representative for each area that can dedicate their time fully to the needs of each area. It will at the same time free me up to be more active statewide and to offer support to each Representative as needed. With practically the entire state as the jurisdiction of Local 441, there are numerous areas yet untapped that could provide many manhours of work for our membership if given the time to pursue and secure it.

I am sure many of you have noticed that job opportunities are increasing greatly and hopefully have benefited from it. Many of those jobs are a direct result of the work your Agents and Organizers have been doing. This could not have come at a better time. Projections are very good, as we emerge from this horrible downturn in our industry, that the next few years will be outstanding. It is unfortunate that our economy and expansions cannot grow at a steady and manageable rate, but this is really nothing new to our industry. Most of us have lived through the times of feast and famine this industry yields. I personally wish every member a prosperous year and hope that the work has commenced soon enough for everyone to end 2005 financially better off then when the year began.

Because of this increase in the demand for qualified skilled workers by our signatory contractors, we have a unique opportunity to effectively organize key individuals from the non-union sector. This not only fills a necessary need for our union and our contractors, it also has a dramatic result on the non-signatory contractor.

We have already seen some of our biggest non-union competitors implementing pay increases across the board in fear of loosing more of their key individuals. Obviously, this increases their cost of doing business and helps our contractors to be more competitive.

I have mentioned several times at various union meetings concerning the average age of the United Association work force. It is predicted that the 2005-2015 period will see the baby boomer population 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 worker 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.

In conclusion, leave no doubt, as a member you have every right to know and understand anything we as your elected Officers are doing to serve you. If you have any questions about your union in general, please call our stop by the hall. There is nothing we can do to stop unjustified rumors, but we can be here to serve you and answer your questions. Not only will we answer your questions, but if necessary, we will provide you with the facts and proof to back it up. That is my pledge to you as your Business Manager.

Take care, God bless, and be safe on the job.
Labor Day Events All Over Kansas

Monday, September 5 is Labor Day and Kansas communities are celebrating in various ways. Hutchinson will have a picnic in Cary Park on Monday Sept. 5.

Kansas City will conduct a Labor Day Parade for the first time in 13 years. The parade will be held a week before on Saturday, August 27 to allow for more community participation. Beginning at 11 am at the City Market the parade will be followed by a rally at a nearby park. The Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas is a co-sponsor and may be contacted at 913-334-3505.

Manhattan will have a Labor Day Fest in the City Park Pavilion on Sunday, September 4 from 1 to 3 pm. There will be Bar-B-Que, speakers and entertainment. The Flint Hills Living Wage Coalition is a sponsor.

Topeka’s Labor Day Festival will begin with a parade downtown at 10 am on Monday, September 5. Speakers, jazz band and games for the kids will be held at the State Capitol Building at 10th and Jackson. The Topeka Federation of Labor may be contacted at 785-276-9078.

Lawrence’s fifth annual Labor Day Celebration theme is “A Place at the Table: Current Issues on the Menu.” An ice cream social, music and speakers will be held at the South Park on Massachusetts Street from 2 to 5pm. The Lawrence Central Labor Council may be contacted at 785-843-7743.

Wichita will have a Labor Day Picnic at the Machinists Hall at 3830 S. Meridian on Sunday, September 4 from noon to 4pm. The event is free to all union members, retirees and their families. Raffle tickets will be sold to support the Wichita/Hutchinson Labor Federation Building Fund and Mario’s Food Pantry. There will be food, bingo, face painters, and raffle drawings all inside. The Labor Fed is a co-sponsor and may be contacted at 941-4061.

The first Labor Day parade was held in New York on September 5, 1882 Congress made it a national holiday in 1894.

M.I.N.K. Pipe Trades Meeting
The Missouri, Indiana, Nebraska, and Kansas Pipe Trades Association (MINK) will hold their 2005 convention at Lake Ozark in Missouri.

The two-day convention will be held on Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10. A golf tournament will be held on Thursday, September 8th.

MINK Pipe Trades has partnered with Mechanical Systems, Inc. to supply piping and air-systems for Kansas State University’s new Bioscience Research Institute in Manhattan, Kan. The Research Institute, will be a fifty million dollar high-tech, high-security facility for researching contaminants affecting the public’s health. Anticipated completion is summer 2006.

MINK UA union members have specialized training in HVACR, plumbing, sprinkler fitting, medical gas, and backflow, and was awarded the job based on their continued efforts toward employee training.

Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I am happy to report work in LU 441 jurisdiction has improved as we anticipated going into the summer months. With the amount of projects our contractors have right now, it looks like we will have work until at least November. We are now trying to look for upcoming projects that our contractors can bid in 2006.

Day & Zimmerman based out of Lancaster, PA. has signed a contract to do maintenance, repair and renovation for Westar Energy. This agreement will cover Gordon Evans Gen. Station; Murray Gill; Abilene Station; Jeffrey Energy; Lawrence Energy; Neodesa Station; Tecumseh Energy; and Hutchinson Energy. This will be good for LU 441 and we look forward to working with them.

The surrounding locals also have work. St Joe LU 45, Lu 464 Omaha, KC. LU 533, KC LU 8 continue to have work and have helped us while our work was down. We still have members in Las Vegas and are currently sending welders to St. Louis for the Calloway shutdown.

As of this writing there are 140 members on the out of work list with 62 on travel card. The apprentices list currently has two members off with two on travel card.

Every Tuesday I update the list and email it to our signatory contractors. Usually after the list goes out I will get a call for manpower. So please call me when you get laid off so you don’t miss a job call.

If you have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to call or stop by and see me.

Fraternally Yours,
Bill Urton, Employment Dispatch

Sunflower Electric Power To Build Two Coal-fired Plants in Holcomb
Sunflower Electric Power Corp of Hays has reached an agreement with the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc., of Westminster, Colorado to build two 600-megawatt coal-fired generating plants. They will be located next to Sunflower’s 360-megawatt plant in Holcomb Kansas.

Construction is expected to begin within the next 3½ years to build the $2.5 million plants. They will supply power for Colorado and other western states. None of the power is planned for Kansas.

Tri-State is also building a $1.8 billion plant in Colorado to supply Boulder, Colorado Springs and Denver. Demand is increasing in that area 100 megawatts a year. One-megawatt supplies power for 400 to 1,000 homes.

Sunflower is a regional wholesale supplier to six member cooperatives, western Kansas’s regional utilities and to 10 other states. Tri-State is a wholesale supplier owned by 44 electric cooperatives serving Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming with over 1 million customers.

Pin Designs Wanted
Custom trading pins at national conventions help other locals remember us. This helps to secure work for our members in other parts of the country.

Next summer’s United Association convention will be #441’s first opportunity to have a pin representative of our new state-wide local. A memorable pin worth collecting will help make a good impression.

The lapel pins are not limited by shape and are produced by union companies. Members and their families are encouraged to submit design ideas on paper to any of our officers.
ELECTED OFFICERS

PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS UA LOCAL #441

ELECTED OFFICERS

Mike Magennis
President

Ron Jameson
Vice President

Jim Beery
Recording Secretary

Richard Robison
Sergeant At Arms

FINANCE COMMITTEE

T. J. Strickland

Jerry Short

David Emerson

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Gib Land

Dennis Wingert

Mike Mordica

Herb Parsons, IV

EXAMINERS

Phil Hines
Plumbing

Darrell Bunch
Refrigeration

Don Henry, Jr.
Welder

Andy Tipton
Pipefitter
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #441 Work Zones

Kansas Local 441

Union Meetings
2nd Monday of every Month, 7 p.m.
(316) 265-4291/1330 E. 1st Street, Wichita

Next Meeting Dates:
September 12, October 10, November 14

Local 441 Area Meeting Dates
Thursday, 7 p.m.,
following Wichita Monday Meeting

Next Meeting Dates:
September 15, October 13, November 17

Kansas Local 441
Union Meetings

Kirk Miller
Topeka

Denis Wittman
Lawrence

Mike Wolownik
Frontenac

Bill Urton
Dispatcher

State Organizers

Phil Petty

Jim Cox

Area Business Representatives

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #441 Work Zones

Energy Bill Supports Nuclear, Wind & Ethanol Power Plant Construction

The $12.3 billion federal energy bill contains provisions to jump-start the construction of nuclear power plants. It also requires oil refiners to double their use of corn-produced ethanol in gasoline by 2012.

Kansas currently has seven ethanol plants in operation with more in development. The bill will aid projects in Phillipsburg, Pratt and other communities.

The tax credit for wind-power has been extended for another three years. The credit can make wind-power up to a third less expensive. This will allow many wind farm projects to be more viable. Currently, twenty-two different projects are being planned for Kansas.

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

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union #441
Merger of Pension Plans

By Joe Pucci, C&J Benefit Solutions Inc.

The transfer of the assets of the Local 441 Plumbers and Pipefitters 401(k) Plan from Scudder Investments to MassMutual Financial Group is now complete and, judging from the response from the 401(k) Plan Participants, was fairly painless.

Currently we have two defined contribution pension plans (individual account plans) within the Local 441 jurisdiction. Contractors in Wichita Zone 1A make contributions to the Local 441 Plumbers and Pipefitters 401(k) Plan. Contractors in the Frontenac, Lawrence and Topeka Zones make contributions to the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Retirement Fund of Kansas.

The Trustees of both Plans have set a target date of January 1, 2006, for a merger of the two Plans. The assets for both Plans are now held by MassMutual Financial Group and both have the same investment funds available to Participants. Following the merger, the combined assets of the Plan will be in excess of twenty million dollars. Based upon this amount, the Trustees negotiated a new fee schedule with MassMutual that has resulted in lower asset fees paid to MassMutual.

Merging the Plans will also lower the direct administrative costs (expenses such as those paid for the annual audit, attorney fees, administrator’s fees, bonding, office expense, etc) by an estimated 26% in 2006. These lower fees for direct administrative costs will not apply to the 2005 Plan Year and in fact, the administrative costs for 2005 will be higher because of the costs associated with the merger. We will need to develop a Merger Agreement, new Plan Document, Trust Agreement, MassMutual Contract, Summary Plan Description, have the new Plan approved by the IRS and several letters and documents will need to be mailed to all Plan Participants. These steps, and others required by Federal Law, will result in an increase in administrative costs for 2005.

The merged Plan will be governed by a Board of eight Trustees. There will be four Management Trustees and four Labor Trustees. There will be a Management Trustee and a Labor Trustee from each Zone. The Trustees of both Plans have agreed to adopt the less stringent of the vesting and distributions rules for the new Plan. For Participants of the current Kansas Retirement Plan, this will mean the rules surrounding vesting and distributions will not change. For Participants in the 401(k) Plan, the rules for vesting and “termination of employment” distributions will be much more lenient.

The Trustees have agreed the name of the merged Plan will be the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Retirement Fund of Kansas. Retaining the name of the Plan for the Frontenac, Lawrence and Topeka areas means that changes to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) in those Zones should not be necessary. The Wichita CBA will need to be changed to stipulate contributions to the new Plan. For work performed in the Wichita area, employee contributions will continue to be deducted, per the current rules of the current 401(k) Plan. We anticipate making the changes to the Wichita CBA effective for December 2005 contributions. December 2005 contributions will be received in January 2006 and will then be invested in the new Plan. Currently C&J Benefit Solutions Inc. is the third party administrator for the 401(k) Plan and I am the Administrator for the Kansas Retirement Plan. The Trustees of both Plans have recommended that C&J Benefits be the third party administrator for the merged Plan.

As the 401(k) Plan Participants are aware, the merger of the Plans will necessitate a “blackout period.” During this blackout period, your account activity will be frozen. Your account will continue to be invested and contributions will continue to be allocated during this blackout period, but you will not be able to request withdrawals, make changes to your investment selections or transfer funds until the move is completed and balances are reconciled. We anticipate a blackout period of 30 days or less. The time frame for the blackout period has not yet been set, but I would guess it will begin close to or on December 1, 2005.

The Participants of both Plans will be receiving further information and notices regarding the merger during late 2005. So it is very important that you inform the Fund Office if you have a change of address.

Contributions to the Local 441 Plumbers and Pipefitters Retirement Plan (the Wichita defined benefit Plan) will continue and the merger of the two defined contribution Plans will not affect this Plan.

If you have any questions regarding the merger, please contact me at (620) 232-3799.

Joe Pucci, C&J Benefit Solutions Inc.

*Any of the foregoing is subject to change by the current Trustees of the Plans or by the Trustees of the merged Plan. If any portion conflicts with the actual rules of the Plan(s) as stated in the Plan Document(s), the Plan Document(s) will prevail.

Kansas UA Local #441 Supports Gov. Sebelius

Governor Sebelius addressed the Sedgwick County Democratic Party Independence Day Celebration on June 25. Business Manager Richard Taylor has been expressing 441’s support by attending events that include Gov. Sebelius.

The Sedgwick County event was also a fundraiser held at the home of Doctors Les and Courtney Ruthven.

**CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS**

**Lawrence Central Labor Council**
Meets the 2nd Monday at 7:30 pm at 930 E. 28th St. in Lawrence
785-843-7743

**Salina Central Labor Union**
Meets the 3rd Thursday at 8 pm
In the Labor Temple at 2055 S. Ohio
In Salina

**Topeka Federation of Labor**
Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 7 pm at 1231 Eugene St. in Topeka

**Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas**
Meets the last Tuesday at 6pm at 7540 Leavenworth Road in Kansas City

**Wichita/Hutchinson Labor Federation**
Meets the 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm at Labor Union Center, 3219 W. Central
In Wichita.
The Health & Welfare Office handles your local pension information, 401k, and general questions regarding your health insurance (such as your status in qualifying for insurance benefits.) If you have specific questions regarding your insurance, such as a list of doctors, please refer to the numbers listed below for Blue Cross and Delta Dental.

Health & Welfare Office
(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas
(800) 432-3990 or (785) 291-4180

Delta Dental of Kansas
(800) 234-3375 or (316) 264-4511

If you have a Pension through the United Association, the National Pension office is where you would 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 pack from National. If you have a local pension or Kansas Annuity benefit, you will also need to contact the Health & Welfare office to request the retirement information for that benefit.

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

United Association Website: www.ua.org


Burgess, Harold, 90, died July 10, 2005, most recently from Topeka, Ks. Brother in good standing for 57 years.

Collins, Billy G., 70, died May 13, 2005, Wichita, Ks. Brother in good standing for 36 years.

Donlay, Gerald E., 75, died July 1, 2005, Haysville, Ks. Brother in good standing for 55 years.


Ford, Frank O., 76, died June 11, 2005, Wichita, Ks. Brother in good standing for 50 years.

Notices of brothers and sisters passing are posted on our website as received: www.ua441.org. On the bottom left side of our home page you may click on “441 In Memoriam.” Everyone is encouraged to notify the hall as soon as you are aware of a passing. Please share this information with our brothers and sisters.
Local Union 441 training is offering the following list of certification classes during the 2005/2006 school year. All classes are at no-charge to all UA Building Trades members in good standing who are actively seeking employment or currently are employed by a signatory contractor. All classes listed are being held on Saturday’s to make certification as accessible as possible. We urge each of you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Pre-enrollment is required (a minimum of 10 days prior to scheduled start date) for all listed certification classes. Minimum enrollment of ten (10) is required to hold the class as scheduled.

To enroll call the Training Office at 1-316-267-8508. This number is answered 7/24. If you get the answering machine, leave a message to include: your name, class you wish to be enrolled in, date and location of the class and a phone number (we will call you back confirming your enrollment).

Classes are open to ALL UA BUILDING TRADES MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All 2006 classes will be eligible for CEU’s (craft license renewal).

### 2005/2006 Certification Class Schedules

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<th>WICHITA TRAINING CENTER</th>
<th>TOPEKA TRAINING CENTER</th>
<th>FRONTENAC TRAINING CENTER</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OHSA Class 30 hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Medical Gas Certification 40 hours</strong></td>
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<td>October 15, 22, 29 &amp; Nov. 5</td>
<td>November 5, 12, 19 &amp; Dec. 3, 10</td>
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<td><strong>OHSA Class 10 hours</strong></td>
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<td>Saturday, March 18 from 8 to 6:30 pm</td>
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