Business Manager’s Report

Hours Worked Equals Local’s Success!

As we approach the end of 2016 and begin to archive and process the various end of the year activities involved in the operation of this local union, it allows an opportunity to evaluate this year as a whole and also in comparison to past years. The most man-hours worked in any given year since the start of Local 441 was 2013 with just over two million hours worked throughout the jurisdiction that particular year. Using 2013 as a benchmark, it appears 2016 will most likely end up in second place just behind 2013. So by all indications another good year and it is also worth pointing out that actually from 2013 forward the last four years have been our top years in reference to man-hours.

There are very few components of our local union that are not affected and basically totally dependent upon hours worked. Our pensions, our health care, each of our local union funds, our training program, and each of our individual members either prosper or fail based on the number of hours provided and worked. This local union has been blessed with an abundance of work and job opportunities that have offered each of us the ability to prosper and also provide a secure financial future for our local.

Local Union Marketing and Advertising

Many of you have noticed a couple of Local 441 commercials that have been airing primarily during the NFL on Fox broadcasts over the past few weeks. There have also been some spots running in southeast Kansas that have been purchased and coordinated by the Southeast Kansas Contractors Association. This type of advertising and marketing has become much more affordable and it appears there is now an opportunity to budget our finances and allow us to build an effective marketing campaign for Local 441. When presented to the membership they too agreed that the cost was very affordable and it was heavily suggested that advertising should be part of our budget for 2017.

Pink Hard Hat Campaign Promotes Breast Cancer Awareness

On October 10, Garden City became the first site in Kansas to form a giant human pink ribbon to help increase awareness about the importance of breast cancer screening, an event that benefited the Breast Center at St. Catherine Hospital.

More than 350 people donned pink hard hats and met at the construction site of Dairy Farmers of America’s Meadowlark Dairy Nutrition plant near U.S. Highway 83 and the Jameson Energy Center to form a Human Pink Hard Hat Ribbon, a visible reminder of breast cancer protection and screening.

The event was Emcor’s Eighth Annual “Protect Yourself. Get Screened Today” campaign. Emcor is the parent company of Shambaugh & Son, LP, which is overseeing construction of the dairy plant.

The ribbon was formed by employees of that company along with employees of DFA, subcontractors McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. and Tetra Pak, Inc., and St. Catherine Hospital, as well city and county officials, who all wore pink shirts and pink hard hats, formed the pink ribbon and posed for an aerial photograph.

Following the event, Shambaugh & Son, DFA, McCarthy and Tetra Pak presented St. Catherine Hospital CEO Scott Taylor with a $30,000 check made out to the hospital’s Breast Center.

Seventy UA members were among those who created a giant pink hard hat ribbon in Garden City to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October and raise funds for screening equipment.

[Business Manager’s Report, cont’d on page 8]
Total Eclipse on Aug. 21
It will have been 26 years since the last American total solar eclipse

On August 21, 2017, millions of people across the United States will see nature’s most wondrous spectacle — a total eclipse of the Sun.

It is a scene of unimaginable beauty; the Moon completely blocks the Sun, daytime becomes a deep twilight, and the Sun’s corona shimmers in the darkened sky.


St. Joseph, Missouri, is on the centerline eclipse path and a great place to view this rare celestial event.

http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov
www.GreatAmericanEclipse.com

Keep America working.

Does YOUR organization need a newsletter or website?

www.UA441.org

Local Union #441
Officers, Committee and Staff

John Shepherd Jr., President
Jerry Short, Vice President
Richard L. Taylor, Business Manager and Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Nicholas Rhodes, Recording Secretary
Jade Killgore, Sergeant-at-Arms

Business Representatives/Organizers
Steve Watson, Dispatcher (316) 265-4291
Rick Salyer, (785) 354-8539
Mike Wolownik, (620) 231-4280
Phil Petty, (785) 640-6151

Office Staff
Angela Hermann • Jolene Senter • Becca Duerr

Executive Board
David Emerson LeRoy Lawrence
T.J. Strickland Steve Watson

Finance Committee
Steve Stenger Eric Vail Richard Watson

Examiners
Brian R. Burnett Craig Childers Andrew J. Tipton

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.

Brian Burnett (316) 210-3998
Dan McCulloch (785) 286-0774
Jerry Short (316) 733-9511

Does YOUR organization need a newsletter or website?
Dear Brothers and Sisters:  

Happy Holidays!  

First and foremost, I would like to say “THANK YOU” to all who attended the area picnics throughout the State. I was fortunate to attend all the events, and I will say, we had great attendance at each event. It is always good to see fellow members and share great memories.  

Work in southeast Kansas has been slow. I am working hard, knocking on doors — some new and some old. There is some work in the Chanute and Coffeyville areas. Currently, there is work bidding on the Orizon Aerostuctures project, Ashgrove project, and the Trane HVAC project. The Traneg HVAC is work at Pittsburg High School. The School Bond will be back in play this spring in Pittsburg. The committee removed the demolition piece of the Pittsburg Middle School which could sway the vote to “YES.”  

The Riverton demolition project at Empire bid, but there is no word yet of which contractor was awarded the project. From what we are hearing, the contractor will demo out the old coal units and leave the small gas units in the plant. ECA for the Electricians are relocating some electrical panels throughout the old plant.  

Just a little info from the Southeast Kansas Building Trades:  

This year, NMAPC also introduced a new award category: the Project Recognition Program, which recognizes NMAPC Yellow Card Projects with 500,000 or more hours worked with zero recordable injuries project wide. All contractors, subcontractors and unions working on the Yellow Card project are recognized. The first-ever Project Recognition Program Award recognized 616,278 injury-free work hours performed on the Empire Riverton Unit 12 Combined Cycle Conversion project at the Riverton Power Plant in Riverton, Kansas. The primary team on the project was Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company (construction manager), The Empire District Electric Company (owner-client) and the Southeast Kansas Building Trades Council (labor). In addition, 20 contractors and 14 local unions were also honored for their injury-free work on the project.  

To all the Local 441 members and travelers who worked on this project I would like to say “THANKS” for a great job.  

I have been working this past year on the Contract with Day & Zimmermann at the Parsons Ammunition Plant. The contract is still in negotiation with LU 441 and three other Unions. On November 9th the members voted down the contract which will put us back at the table the latter part of November and December. This will be my fourth contract negotiations with D&Z since I took this office and I have never seen anything like this. Brothers and Sisters, insurance is up anywhere from 20% to 37% and making it tough on the working class.  

We continue to hope for better days ahead.  

Fraternally Yours,  

Mike Wolownik (620) 231-4280  
Frontenac Business Representative – Zone 1B
Topeka/Lawrence Area

Happy Holiday season 441,

Work in the area is going okay right now and should continue through Winter. We have a couple of projects on the KU campus, Earth, Energy & Environment for P1 Group and the Central District Project for U.S. Engineering. Both got off to a fairly slow start due to weather, but are now picking up pace. Ottawa Elementary School has KC Mechanical on site with a couple of our members working for the next year or so. Peaslee Tech will be replacing a chiller this winter with P1 Group.

In Topeka, the Mars expansion has slowed to a handful of Fitters, Welders and Plumbers and should wrap up around mid-December. Word is that there will be another line installed in the main plant later this winter. This product line is being disassembled elsewhere and brought here to Topeka. As of today, that project has been awarded to Viking. A special shout out should go to all the guys working at Mars who stuck the job out and worked their tails off get this project where it is today. Blue Cross & Blue Shield Topeka has a major remodel underway with McElroy’s and should be complete this Spring.

I would like to say thank you to all our members working in the Service departments for our Signatory Contractors. You guys work all sorts of crazy hours under less than optimal conditions. Never forget that you guys are a very important sector of your Local Union. Keep up the good work!

Remodel update: The final drawings are getting finished soon. We had a crew of Apprentices help clean out the attic storage area and a couple of rooms. This will allow us to move a classroom and office to the east side of the building. I hope to begin demo after the first of the year.

Camp Jayhawk update: Phase 1 trench drains are complete, special shout out to a terrific 4th year class of Plumbing Apprentices: Kyle Allen, David Dwyer, Steven Farve, Brian Holle, Frank Huber, Daniel Leonard, Chris Morgan and Joseph Toole. Thanks to Bruce Pfeiffer and the staff with Camp Jayhawk for setting this venture up. Thanks to Paul Miller of McElroy’s for help with material and tools. I would also like to thank Neenan Company and Casey Brees here in Topeka for getting good pricing for the trench drains. Also, Eric Craver and Leroy Brees at Custom Sheetmetal for the custom pit lid we needed.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

Training

Happy holidays to all,

I would like to wish a very Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all, and please remember to be thankful for the blessing that we all have such as our families, friends, co-workers, and contractors.

We will have NCCR hand signal and rigger certification classes in January and February. There will be two classes at the Topeka training center and two at the Wichita training center; please check our website, www.ppaoks.org, for dates and registration information.

You’ll need to check your area calendar, click on the date or dates that are highlighted, and fill in the information that is required in order to register for the upcoming class or classes. If you’ve registered correctly, you will receive an email back once the class has been confirmed.

We hope this will be an easier way for the members to get information for scheduled training and CEUs.

Remember, this certification is a must to work on any Westar project. In addition, if you need a specific certification or qualification, please let us know, and we will try to schedule a class. In addition, we are trying to schedule some CEU’s, including medical gas refreshers, for the western Kansas area.

We have weld training on Wednesday nights from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Wichita training center and will continue this class every Tuesday as long as members attend. All members are welcome as long as we have an open welding booth. We have set Thursday night for a welding class at the Topeka Training center. Please call the Training office or Rick Salyer for information.

It is very important to our program that apprentices are properly evaluated. Please consider this when filling out OJT cards. Also remember that we, as members, are not the only ones that look at them. The completed cards are sent to all trustees and some our sent to the State office of Apprenticeship. Slang and profanity are not professional and reflect poorly on us as a whole. Comments don’t have to be all negative. If you have a positive comment, please include it as well.

Remember that you, as journeymen, set an example every day for our apprentices with your work ethic and your attitude.

Michael J. Magennis
Training Director UA Local 441

Keep America working.  Buy American.
Swearing In Ceremonies
New journeymen members as well as the new apprentice class of 2016 was sworn in during the membership meeting on October 10, 2016.

Dear Union Leader:

It is more important than ever that we stand with our strongest union employers against anti-union companies. With nearly 150,000 organized workers, AT&T is the only nationwide unionized wireless carrier.

There are currently more than 620,000 union members and staff participating in the Union Plus Wireless Discount program with AT&T. But that's only 5 percent of union members, while AT&T has about a 30 percent share of the wireless market. That means millions of union members are using non-union carriers or using AT&T and not saving through the Union Plus Wireless Discount Program.

Through the program, your members can save 15% on the monthly service charge of qualified AT&T wireless plans. They may also qualify for other savings offers from AT&T and up to $250 cash back from Union Plus.

We are excited by the show of solidarity we’ve seen through the program to date – but we can do more to help ensure that our members stop using non-union wireless carriers!

Toward that end, I ask that you stand in solidarity with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) members at AT&T Wireless and:

1. Accept the call you will receive from a CWA member who works at the local AT&T retail store. They can help you learn more about the program and how you and your members can take advantage of it. They can also attend your events throughout 2016 and visit your worksites to sign up your members for the program.

2. Encourage your Central Labor Council to promote the AT&T discount more broadly.

3. Distribute the enclosed flyer to your members, and use your communications channels (website, email, newsletter, social media, etc.) to inform your members about the AT&T discount. You can download everything you need free from UnionPlus.org/attleader.

Through this show of solidarity with our union brothers and sisters, we can help send a strong message to non-union wireless companies that union money will not support them.

Have questions on how to get started? Please contact Union Plus at ATT@unionplus.org or 800-472-2005, ext. 888 with any questions.

Eleanor Trice
Vice President, Union Plus

Happy Holidays!
Happy New Year!
Members Attend Area Picnics!
Members Attend Area Picnics!
Watch your mail in January for new 2017-19 Member Dues Cards.

We are still awaiting the arrival of the new member dues cards. The UA informed us they have made some changes. More details will follow.

Once we receive the cards, we will process and send you your current status/new card in the mail.

[Business Managers Report, cont’d from page 1]

The intent of this advertising is to improve our image as a labor union in Kansas and to illustrate to the public that we are a valuable part of this community. We are hardworking and highly motivated individuals that go to work each day so we can support our families. We participate as coaches in youth activities and volunteer as program leaders to help mold the young people in our community. We donate to many of the nonprofits in the community to help support and improve the quality of life that benefits us all.

After setting down with the Fox production team, it became apparent to relay this message it would need to be done in strategic steps. The first step is to present to the public who we are. Each of us, of course, know what we do and who we are, but average citizens really don’t understand. They may know we exist, but their perception is generally not accurate.

In a state like Kansas, most perceive union organizations as being corrupt and the members as greedy individuals that inconvenience the public by going on strike and driving up costs. In addition to that, they generally have a distorted image of the type of work we do. When describing a Plumber it is usually more associated with that of the Roto Rooter employee and when asked to describe a Pipefitter, generally most have no clue. Not to mention any knowledge of all the service work and other specialty work our members perform.

Based on this analysis we began the process. What you see in the first two commercials produced is the beginning of presenting to the public who and what UA Local 441 is. (If you haven’t seen them, you can view the first two spots on our Local 441 website under “Promotional” at the top of our website main page).

One spot identifies how, as a Local, we are involved throughout the state with business and government in helping to build our communities. The second spot focuses on our commitment to training in striving to be the best in our industry.

Keep in mind this is not intended as a recruitment tool. This is intended to illustrate the importance and the emphasis we put on training to let it be known that we are professionals. This helps to further identify us and is a crucial step in the beginning of Local 441 telling our story and presenting who we are to the public.

As we move forward with this advertising campaign, the hope is the public will have a better grasp and understanding of what we do and what our purpose is. We will then be able to go further to improve our image by illustrating to the public that this professional organization is made up of their neighbors.

We raise our families here, we may coach their kids in softball or little league football, we sit beside them in church, we are concerned about the wellbeing of our communities, and we take pride in being hardworking and highly skilled as craftsmen in our field. This is a great opportunity and one that I think we should take full advantage of.

Looking Ahead in 2017

Several projects are already on the books for 2017 so it appears it is shaping up to be another good year for Local 441. There will be no negotiations in 2017. We currently have increases already scheduled for June 2017 and June 2018.

For this coming year the increases to total package effective June 2017 will be: Zone 1A (Wichita) $1.30; Zone 1B (Frontenac) $1.25; and for both Zone 2A (Topeka) and Zone 2B (Lawrence) $1.20.

Also it is time again in 2017 to conduct election of officers for Local 441. If you are interested in representing your local and serving the membership as an elected officer, nominations will be in April, ballots mailed out in May, and the ballot committee will pick up the ballots from the post office in June to determine the results. New officers will be sworn in at the July Union meeting. The term of office is for three years.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

In closing, I will simply point out that the holidays are always a wonderful time of the year. Time spent with friends and with those we work the hardest for, our families. Plenty of food and the faith that binds us regardless of the religion you practice. Peace on earth and love for our fellow man, which goes hand and hand with the brotherhood we enjoy associated with the building trades and our own local union. And to be thankful for the blessings we have received over the years when considering all the work that has been secured for this local union by our contractors. There will always remain one gift from God that is common for all of us and that is the ability and talent He has given us to perform the work we do with skill and pride.

Blessings and be safe on the job.
Happy Holidays!  Happy New Year!

**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:

Jan. 9th, Feb. 13th, March 13

**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.

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

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**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

(All zones unless noted otherwise.)

- Saturday, December 24th
- Christmas Eve Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)
- Monday, December 26th (observed)
- Christmas Holiday

**2017 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

- Monday, January 2nd
- New Year’s Day Holiday (All Zones)
- Monday, May 29th
- Memorial Day Holiday (All Zones)
- Tuesday, July 4th
- Independence Day Holiday (All Zones)
- Monday, September 4th
- Labor Day Holiday (All Zones)
- Thursday, November 23rd
- Thanksgiving Day Holiday (All Zones)
- Friday, November 24th
- Day After Thanksgiving Holiday (All Zones)
- Sunday, December 24th
- Christmas Eve Holiday (Zones IB, IIA, IIB)
- Monday, December 25th
- Christmas Day Holiday (All Zones)

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

- 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.PPATKS.org
- Union Association Website: www.UA.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.

**Health & Welfare Office** • www.ppi-fund.org

- (316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

**Cigna** • www.cigna.com • (800) 244-6224

**Delta Dental of Kansas** • www.DeltaDentalKS.com

- (800) 234-3375 or (316) 264-4511

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

**RETIRING?!? 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.

Please also contact the union hall to let us know your official retirement date.

**National Pension** (800) 638-7442

**Local Pension** (316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517

**Kansas Annuity** (620) 232-3799

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Ben Newhouse is Local 441’s Independent Financial Advisor.

Members, please feel free to give him a call at (855) 369-7100 for assistance and advice with your Mass Mutual investment account

**OFFICE NOTES!!!**

2016 COURTESY TAX INFORMATION

Local #441 office staff will be mailing you information about 2016 dues, work assessment, etc. paid by you to Local #441 for tax purposes. This is a courtesy provided by your Local Union and is NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT. December 2016 remittance reports must be received from all contractors prior to these documents being prepared. Remittance reports are not due by contractors until mid-January. Office staff will endeavor to process these remittance reports as quickly as received in order to provide this information for 441 members.

**EMLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PPI RETIREMENT FUND**

If you wish to begin self-contributing to the PPI Retirement Fund of Kansas, contact either the Plan Administrator or the Union Office and we will send you an Elective Contribution Changes Form. The Election period is from January 1 through Jan. 15. The change will be effective as of your employer’s first payroll period in February. DO NOT GIVE YOUR ELECTION FORM TO YOUR EMPLOYER. Changes will not be effective until your Election Form is received in the Plan Administrator’s office, or at the Union office. Elections postmarked after January 15 will not meet this deadline and will be rejected. You may, at any time, reduce your elective contribution rate to zero by again completing a new Elective Contribution Changes Form. Should any of the foregoing conflict with the actual documents which govern the Plan, the Plan Documents will prevail.

**2017 MEMBER DUES**

At the 2016 UA Convention, per capita adjustments were made but do not take effect until 2018. No per capita adjustment was made for 2017, so member dues will remain the same for 2017.

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Happy Holidays! Happy New Year!
World Wide Work Recommendations  www.mattwittphotography.com/blog

BOOKS

Alibi Creek  by Bev Magennis (Torrey House Press). In this exceptionally well-written novel, a New Mexican ranch woman’s life is turned upside down when her journalist returns from prison, the county commissioners she works for order her to facilitate corrupt financial practices, her husband leaves her, and she begins to see her Christian faith in a new light.

Cold Blood, Hot Sea  by Charlene D’Avanzo (Torrey House Press). A plot-driven mystery novel follows a young climate scientist on the Maine coast whose life is in danger because she is investigating big energy companies.

The Walls of Delhi  by Uday Prakash (Seven Stories). Three innovative novellas cast a light on class in today’s India. A janitor stumbles on a cache of money. An untouchable has his identity stolen by an upper-caste thief. A slum family faces a crisis when their baby keeps getting smarter by leaps and bounds.

Pale Harvest  by Braden Hepner (Torrey House Press). The young men in a western dairy community who are at the center of this touching novel struggle to understand faith, hope, and fate as they cope with poverty, isolation, and lack of power in the face of larger economic forces.

Woman Missing  by Linda Nordquist (Hard Ball Press). In this novel written by a former steelworker, a worker disappeared 20 years ago while challenging a mill closure, and the authorities had no interest in investigating. Now, her daughter returns to her hometown to discover what happened, putting herself in danger.

Dirt Work  by Christine Byl (Beacon). A woman who has spent much of her adult life on trail crews in the western states provides an entertaining memoir of her experiences.

The Big Book of Nature Activities  by Drew Monkman and Jacob Rodenburg (New Society). An extremely useful 350-page guide describes specific activities and games to engage young people in the natural world, fun, and develop skills.

Tomlinson Hill  by Chris Tomlinson (St. Martin’s). A journalist who is the great-great-grandson of slave owners returns to his roots in a small town in Texas to tell the unvarnished story of the relationship over many generations between his family and black residents, including retired NFL star LaDainian Tomlinson. One striking aspect of the story is the similarity between what the white elite did to maintain political and economic power and cheap labor after the Civil War and the tactics being used today.

Environmentalism of the Rich  by Peter Dauvergne (MIT). A professor argues that an environmental movement focused on recycling, energy efficiency, and wilderness preservation is not making change fast enough because it does not challenge the root issues of overconsumption, extreme inequality, destructive growth, and excessive corporate power over decision making.

Secrets of a Successful Organizer  by Alexandra Bradbury, Mark Brenner, and Jane Slaughter (Labor Notes). While designed for use in a workplace context, this guide contains useful tips for any kind of organizing.

Among Wolves  by Gordon Haber and Marybeth Holleman (University of Alaska). A compilation of the writings of a scientist who studied wolves in Alaska for 43 years provides comprehensive information about how these animals live, the important role they play in their ecosystem, and what it will take to allow them to thrive rather than disappearing.

Listen, Liberal  by Thomas Frank (Metropolitan). The Democratic Party presents itself as the party of working people, yet at the top it is run by a corporate and cultural elite whose economic and foreign policy positions benefit Wall Street and global companies at everyone else’s expense. The history of how that transformation has taken place is essential reading for all Americans, including those who may choose to vote Democratic anyway for pragmatic reasons.

The American War in Vietnam  by John Marciano (Monthly Review Press). The U.S. government has launched a multi-year project to “commemorate” its war in Vietnam, framing that invasion as a patriotic effort to promote democracy around the world. A retired professor reviews the actual history of the war and debunks the myths being created by those who seek to build support for similar military interventions today.


FILMS

The Measure of a Man. This highly unusual French feature film focuses on an unemployed man put through absurd and humiliating “retraining,” “coaching,” and interviews for jobs he won’t get, until he finally accepts a position as part of the surveillance staff in a big box store.

When Two Worlds Collide. Backed by a “free trade” agreement with the U.S., the president of Peru launched a plan to turn over indigenous Amazonian land to big corporations for mining and oil and gas extraction. Indigenous communities fought back. The filmmakers immersed themselves in this drama and produced incredible footage showing the courage and sacrifice of the native people, juxtaposed with the familiar invoking of “progress” and “the rule of the law” by the corporations’ allies in government.

Deepwater Horizon. A Hollywood thriller recreates the 2010 disaster in which a BP oil rig caught on fire and exploded, killing 11 people and releasing tens of millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. High-level acting and special effects help tell the story of BP’s greed that led to the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

The Ruins of Lifta. A Jewish filmmaker whose family was devastated by the Holocaust has made a film about a Palestinian village whose inhabitants lost their homes when Israel was established. Survivors of both experiences meet at the present-day village site, now a battleground among developers, the Israeli government, and Palestinians.

MUSIC

War Surplus  by Becky Warren. This 12-song album by a country rocker now touring with the Indigo Girls tells a continuous story about a soldier who was sent to Iraq and his girlfriend, following each of them from the time they meet to his return with PTSD.

Haas, Marshall, Walsh and Borderland  by Joe Walsh. Two new albums of tuneful roots music, some original, some traditional, some instrumental, with innovations like a rendition of Phil Ochs’ “There But for Fortune” or a Yeats poem put to music.

American Band  by Drive-By Truckers. The dynamic white southern rockers have been touring with a Black Lives Matter sign on stage, and sing about a school massacre in Oregon, religious hypocrites, the Confederate flag, and police shootings of black men:

“If you say it wasn’t racial when they shot him in his tracks,
Well, I guess that means that you ain’t black,
I mean Barack Obama won and you can choose where to eat,
But you don’t see too many white kids lying bleeding on the street.”
’Tis the Season to Support American Workers  By Joan Silvi

Buying Union-Made Can Bring Holiday Cheer and Good Jobs

The holiday season is a time to show your loved ones how much you care about them. For many, that includes giving them the perfect present. While selecting something that’s just right for your spouse, children, parents or other relatives and close friends can be a challenge, making sure your presents are made by workers who are treated fairly can add to the stress of making the right choice.

That’s where the AFL-CIO Union Plus holiday buying guide can come to the rescue. While they can’t tell you what the perfect gift is for your spouse, they can steer you to union-made products to choose from to make the buying process easier. You can also get some great discounts as a union member if you have the Union Plus savings card. With the card, you get a bonus from being a union member by gaining access to valuable, discounted products and services only available to working families in unions. Discounts are achieved by the strength of the program’s purchasing power of more than 13 million union members giving them leverage to bargain for good programs and items at competitive prices for scholarships, travel discounts, auto insurance, legal service and more. Using their union-made list to choose gifts for everyone on your holiday-buying list assures that they are made in fair working conditions by union workers.

The possibilities cover a list of interests as varied as the people on your gift list. If you’re going big on the spending this year there’s always a new car to give to that special someone. Use the UAW’s 2017 Union-Built Vehicle Guide at uaw.org/uaw-made/cars/ to make sure the vehicle is made by UAW members or Unifor union members in Canada. The products they make also support the jobs of thousands of UAW members who manufacture auto parts.

When entertaining, make sure you buy UAW-made groceries such as beer made by Local 9 members in Wisconsin in Region 4, or UAW 2308 in Ohio in Region 2B who work at Miller giftBrewing, or rum produced by Bacardi workers from Local 2415 in Puerto Rico in Region 9A. Make sure it’s Land O’Lakes butter in those holiday cookies made by Local 70 members in Region 2B, or Perry’s Ice Cream made by UAW members of Local 55 in western New York state in Region 9. Serve up hot coffee from Folger’s made by Local 1805 in Louisiana in Region 5 and use dairy products made by our brothers and sisters at Country Fresh, Local 174 in Michigan, Region 1A. Don’t forget the Planters Peanuts made by Local 2426 members in Suffolk, Virginia, in Region 8. Or you could treat yourself to some fine Lloyd Flanders wicker furniture crafted by the workers from UAW Local 413 in Menominee, Michigan, in Region 1D.

For the activist you want to remember, order a subscription to Mother Jones magazine, produced by UAW Local 2103 members in California in Region 5.

Holiday time is for toys and union members have you covered. Members of the RWDSU/UFCW (Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Union / United Food and Commercial Workers International Union) make these toy and game favorites great for children of all ages on your list: Barrel of Monkeys, Battleship, Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, Clue, Connect 4, Game of Life, Hi Ho Cherry-O, Monopoly, Mouse Trap, Operation, Pictionary, Risk, Scrabble, Sorry, Taboo, Twister and Yahtzee.

Don’t forget union-made beauty products as either gifts or stocking stuffers, too. UFCW members make Avon, Caress, Dove and Old Spice health and beauty products and UAW members make Revlon makeup.

Maybe it’s a good time to buy new clothes for that distinguishing man on your list. Pick up those new threads at Brooks Brothers for clothes made by UNITE HERE members. If a Timex watch is in someone’s future, buying one is a great way to support fellow union members at IAM (International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union).

Or how about sports equipment like golf clubs for the golf enthusiast on your gift buying list? Buy union-made MacGregor Golf clubs made by members of IBB members (International Brotherhood of Boilermakers).

These are just a few of the products made by UAW members and other union members. For complete lists of union-made products go to the UAW-made buying list at UAW.org/union-made or the AFL-CIO’s holiday gift buying guide at bit.ly/2gPpvEO. Buy union and enjoy the holiday season!

Happy Holidays! Happy New Year!