**Business Manager's Report**

As I write this article to the membership, the Thanksgiving holiday has just ended and by the time you read this article it will be mid December. I cannot think of a better time to reflect back on a year that has had so much to be grateful for during this holiday season.

The year began with Local 441 under consolidation and the direct control of the United Association. The membership realized that the only way to regain control of our Local Union was to pull together to finalize all that was required by the United Association. By February 1, the Membership voted to standardize the dues across the jurisdiction. A new set of by-laws were created and approved by the United Association office by early May. A vehicle was put in place to combine the Joint Apprenticeship Committees and to also merge the defined contribution pension plans. Through the hard work and perseverance of the entire membership, we were able to regain full control of our local effective June 1, 2005 when the United Association officially ended the consolidation.

The next step was a full election of new officers on June 17th with those officers being sworn in at the July 11th union meeting. These new officers have demonstrated a sincere desire to represent the membership and Local 441. They have provided insight and ideas that have aided in the transitions that have taken place over the last half of this year. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the officers, business representatives, organizers, and members of Local 441 who have made my job much easier and to also say I am proud and honored to be your Business Manager.

Local Union 441 can be thankful for the fact that the manhours worked in 2005 have increased substantially from that experienced the previous two years. I personally wish that every member has had a prosperous year, and that everyone has ended 2005 financially better off than when the year began. Indications are that 2006 has the potential to be even better. The work is out there and the priority for all of us is to find ways to secure that work for our contractors and membership.

We have implemented a program that will result in being able to show through documentation what each of your paid officers is doing to increase market share and manhours during 2006. I feel Local 441 has a very good team of agents and organizers that are willing to work together and make improving this local union for the membership number one priority. I also feel each member has a right to know what their paid officers are doing to achieve that goal. More details of this plan will be made available to you as the year progresses.

There will also be a budget made available to

[Continued on Page 2]
Wichita Area

Greetings to all members, family, and friends of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #441,

It has been my honor to serve as the Business Representative of Zone 1A for the past 6 weeks. The challenge has been issued to me to (1) recover market share, and (2) bolster the manpower worked in my area. With these challenges in mind, I’ve had to start from a relatively small platform and try to build upon that.

Politically, my efforts have been focused upon making inroads with local leaders such as the Wichita City Council and the Sedgwick County Commission. These individuals have embraced our input. As a membership we carry a strong voice, and are being recognized as a player in the community. We stand for good paying jobs which help support the economy. As a local union we offer stability and support to these officials on topics such as Water Walk, the Downtown Arena, and the gaming issue.

With reference to community involvement, I have overtaken the His Helping Hands project. Help is always needed as we strive to complete this project. If anyone has a few hours to donate please contact me at 265-4291 and I will be pleased to work right along side you to support a worthy cause.

In addition, I hope to work to benefit organizations such The United Way of the Plains in the future and would embrace your support.

On a day to day basis I am making non-signatory contractor, non-union individual, and end-user contacts with some successes. These contacts are not limited to just the Wichita area. Hutchinson, McPherson, Salina, El Dorado, and Winfield have vast opportunities for jobs now and into the future. People are usually willing to listen and learn of what we have to offer, and with persistence, progress is going to be made. My goal is to promote and educate people about our role in the industry, and have been doing so through many organizations such as the Plumbing Association of Central Kansas, the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, and the Western and Central Building Trades of Kansas to name a few.

In conclusion, keep in mind that next year is a significant political year (2006). Many good things can come to us through prevailing wage, the gaming issue, and elections in the great state Kansas. Step up and become involved to some degree. The benefits will be felt for years to come.

I sincerely hope your holidays are filled with love and laughter. Thank you for your hard work and support.

Fraternally,

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

[Business Manager's Report Continued from Page 1]

the membership at the January union meeting. This is something that has been badly needed not only for the membership to see where their hard-earned money is being spent, but also to give us a monthly gauge of how our receipts and expenses relate. As Financial Secretary/Treasurer, my pledge to the membership is to work closely with the Finance Committee and make sure this Local operates within that budget.

We all know how important a year 2006 will be politically. The Governor will be up for reelection along with every Representative. Each one of us needs to start today working to make sure labor friendly candidates are reelected and those that are not are replaced. Your officers have started regular meetings with area politicians to make sure a line of communication is established and that our concerns are heard. We will be working hard to make sure bills are passed at the upcoming spring political session that support working men and women. Each member’s help is badly needed in this battle.

The next UA Convention will be held in August of 2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada. As it stands right now, Local 441 will be entitled to send twelve delegates to represent us at the convention. Nominations for those delegates will be conducted under Special Order of Business at the February Union meeting and those nominees will be voted on at the March Union meeting by secret ballot. I encourage anyone interested in serving the Local as a delegate to place their name in nomination. This is an important duty and our chance to express to our general officers what we need to continue our success in organizing and protecting our work in the piping industry. Please participate and be a part of your union.

In closing, I want to wish you and your family a happy holiday and reiterate the fact that I am proud and honored to be a part of this great organization. You, the membership, have stood fast through the difficulties and changes of the past two and one half years and it is now time for you to reap the benefits. Let’s all continue to stand together and fight for what is right and fair for organized labor. In doing so, we can be strong and our voice will not go unheard.

God bless and be safe on the job.

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

KANSAS DIRECT PIPELINE

December 2005

With reference to community involvement, I have

Politically, my efforts have been focused upon

Making inroads with local leaders such as the Wichita City Council and the Sedgwick County Commission. These individuals have embraced our input. As a membership we carry a strong voice, and are being recognized as a player in the community. We stand for good paying jobs which help support the economy. As a local union we offer stability and support to these officials on topics such as Water Walk, the Downtown Arena, and the gaming issue.

With reference to community involvement, I have overtaken the His Helping Hands project. Help is always needed as we strive to complete this project. If anyone has a few hours to donate please contact me at 265-4291 and I will be pleased to work right along side you to support a worthy cause.

In addition, I hope to work to benefit organizations such The United Way of the Plains in the future and would embrace your support.

On a day to day basis I am making non-signatory contractor, non-union individual, and end-user contacts with some successes. These contacts are not limited to just the Wichita area. Hutchinson, McPherson, Salina, El Dorado, and Winfield have vast opportunities for jobs now and into the future. People are usually willing to listen and learn of what we have to offer, and with persistence, progress is going to be made. My goal is to promote and educate people about our role in the industry, and have been doing so through many organizations such as the Plumbing Association of Central Kansas, the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, and the Western and Central Building Trades of Kansas to name a few.

In conclusion, keep in mind that next year is a significant political year (2006). Many good things can come to us through prevailing wage, the gaming issue, and elections in the great state Kansas. Step up and become involved to some degree. The benefits will be felt for years to come.

I sincerely hope your holidays are filled with love and laughter. Thank you for your hard work and support.

Fraternally,

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

[Business Manager’s Report Continued from Page 1]

the membership at the January union meeting. This is something that has been badly needed not only for the membership to see where their hard-earned money is being spent, but also to give us a monthly gauge of how our receipts and expenses relate. As Financial Secretary/Treasurer, my pledge to the membership is to work closely with the Finance Committee and make sure this Local operates within that budget.

We all know how important a year 2006 will be politically. The Governor will be up for reelection along with every Representative. Each one of us needs to start today working to make sure labor friendly candidates are reelected and those that are not are replaced. Your officers have started regular meetings with area politicians to make sure a line of communication is established and that our concerns are heard. We will be working hard to make sure bills are passed at the upcoming spring political session that support working men and women. Each member’s help is badly needed in this battle.

The next UA Convention will be held in August of 2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada. As it stands right now, Local 441 will be entitled to send twelve delegates to represent us at the convention. Nominations for those delegates will be conducted under Special Order of Business at the February Union meeting and those nominees will be voted on at the March Union meeting by secret ballot. I encourage anyone interested in serving the Local as a delegate to place their name in nomination. This is an important duty and our chance to express to our general officers what we need to continue our success in organizing and protecting our work in the piping industry. Please participate and be a part of your union.

In closing, I want to wish you and your family a happy holiday and reiterate the fact that I am proud and honored to be a part of this great organization. You, the membership, have stood fast through the difficulties and changes of the past two and one half years and it is now time for you to reap the benefits. Let’s all continue to stand together and fight for what is right and fair for organized labor. In doing so, we can be strong and our voice will not go unheard.

God bless and be safe on the job.

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

ORGANIZING CONTRACTORS

Contractors need four basic elements to be visible in our industry. They must have Customers, Manpower, Capital (operating and profit) and Time (to complete the work with their resources). Our fair, signatory Contractors have partnered with us to help fulfill their needs. They have agreed to pay fair wages, provide benefits, safe working conditions and invest in training the most skilled and productive workforce. In return we will provide a skilled workforce to meet their demands, work safe, adjust to industry requirements, and above all, perform to the best of our ability—eight hours work for eight hours pay.

One method of organizing contractors is top-down. TOP-DOWN ORGANIZING can be defined as: The signing of a collective bargaining agreement between a Company and a Union, without the employees of that company being actively involved in reaching that agreement. In other words, we try to sell our organization to the owner/management of the Contractor. We are very fortunate when we connect with a Contractor that is seriously interested in considering what we have to offer. These are Contractors we try to identify and pursue a solid relationship with. But we cannot ignore the other Contractors that do the majority of work in the Industry.

There are Contractors that are unscrupulous. They exploit cheap labor; ignore many laws, codes and regulations. They may utilize substandard materials and installation methods. These Contractors should be exposed and prosecuted accordingly.

There are the Mom and Pop Shops and One Man Shops. For the most part they are law abiding, skilled at what they do, and just making a living. We can educate them on what we have to offer, and be a good partner if they decide to grow their business. In fact, we should look at doing more to address this portion of the industry in the future. Many of our larger Contractors started out as a one-man shop. Over 80% of the work performed in our industry is by Contractors with fewer than ten (10) employees.

There are Contractors that are anti-union. They believe they will do anything to keep from signing an agreement. They will discriminate and violate workers rights to remain non-union. Friendly persuasion or constructive contact with these Contractors is not possible.

While it is necessary and productive to Top-Down Organize we must not forget that it is the workers that NEED the UNION. Our most effective and productive resource to utilize is our membership reaching out and educating the skilled and unrepresented workers about unionism.

Phil Petty, State Organizer
(785) 539-8977
Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Since my last report, work in LU 441 has been good. The shutdown at Jeffrey Energy Center peaked with 55 UA members. Piping & Equipment currently has 125 UA members employed. Logan Company in Coffeyville has held steady with 20 to 30. Our work at Boeing with Dean E. Norris has risen to 51. Walsh Construction is up to 25 members at Fort Riley with the possibility of more barrack projects to bid.

It won’t be as bad as last winter but we are expecting the work to start slowing through the winter months. Our signatory contractors are very aggressive around the state and I feel like we are starting to pick up a little more market share, which means more man-hours for you, the members.

Work around the MINK four-state area looks excellent for 2006 as well as the whole Midwest. The surrounding states have been very good to us and we were able to offer them work in our jurisdiction this year. In the month of October and November we had 55 travelers working in LU 441.

To sum it up, the work in LU 441 has been good for 2005 and we expect 2006 to be better.

Fraternally Yours,
Bill Urton, Employment Dispatch

Lawrence Area

On October 27th a retirement dinner was held at the Topeka Steak House for forty-one members and thirty-seven guests. Awards were presented and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce held a Breakfast of Champions on November 8th. Coach Bill Self of the KU basketball team was the keynote speaker.

On October 8th, fourteen service vans from Chaney Inc. and Huxtable Associates participated in the Heat’s On winter project. Journeymen along with apprentices cleaned furnaces, replaced filters and batteries in smoke detectors. They also installed CO2 detectors in all of the homes. This year they also included military families who are serving overseas. A special thanks to Kevin Chaney and Dwayne Peaslee.

November 12th a career job fair was held at Haskell College in Lawrence. Cheryl White of the Lawrence workforce, Dwayne Peaslee, apprenticeship coordinator and over 450 students attended.

Happy Holidays!

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

Frontenac Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On August 5th I was appointed Business Representative of LU 441 in the Frontenac Area, IB Zone. I would like to thank all of you who helped to make this possible and I promise to work hard for the good of you and your family.

In September, I attended the MINK Pipe Trades Conference in Osage Beach, Missouri. I was able to see first hand why so many good comments have been made in reference to Brothers Hite and Perno. These exceptional gentlemen speak from the heart. We should ALL be proud to be a UA member. Let’s put the past behind us and work toward truly being one Local Union.

Moving on…The work in Kansas - Naturally we want it ALL, but it will take a lot of work by all of us to obtain that goal. Currently, we are working with many general contractors trying to convince them to bid the work. We ask our mechanical contractors to bid the jobs that are available thru the general contractors. Work in the Frontenac area is picking up. As is the nature of the beast some jobs we have lost, only to pick up jobs elsewhere.

Now, here is where we need your help! Politics play a major role in obtaining jobs. If you know your School, County, City, and/or State officials visit with them, share your feelings in regard to work in Kansas. Also, let me know if you have a connection with a particular entity or individual. In this day and age, we must let customers know about our highly trained work force and the quality of our work.

The good news is the future job at the Riverton Power House on the 168 MW gas generator should start in late spring.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office.

Sincerely, Your Brother,
Mike Wolownik (602) 231-4280
103 Mendicki Dr. Frontenac, KS 66763

Topeka Area Fall OSHA Class Attendees

Lonny G. Wright, J.D., Editor
Angela W. Hermann, Managing Editor
Melanie Jenney, Composition
2005 Graduating Class of the Wichita Training Center

The 2005 graduating class of the Wichita Training Center Apprenticeship program received their certificates of successful completion to become UA Journeymen on September 16th. The Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) recognized Jeramie Hoover and Jeremy Davis as Apprentices of the Year.

JAC President Jeff Robinson opened the after dinner program by recognizing the major commitment it took to complete the course. Over 1,250 classroom hours were required in addition to the five years of on-the-job training.

Guest speaker was John Wadsworth, the new owner of Piping & Equipment, Inc. Wadsworth recognized the value of doing work right the first time. To be a UA Journeymen tradesperson requires integrity and honesty.

International Representative Bill Lillie informed the group that the UA spends $120 million dollars a year for training. Lillie recognized the significance of being in the first graduating class of #441. He encouraged the thirteen brothers and one sister to keep going to school and to get further certifications.

State Training Director Jerry Jones recalled that five years ago in September 2000, 24 started the course with only 14 graduating. Jones referred to a saying to “Pull up the next one, don’t pull up the ladder.” He told the new journey persons that they have a responsibility to provide guidance to those coming up behind them.


The next edition of the Kansas Direct Pipeline will recognize the Topeka Training Center Graduating Class.

Apprentices of the Year

Jeramie Hoover, UA Representative Bill Lillie, and Jeremy Davis.
Retiree Recognitions

60 Years
Elmo N. Walker  Wichita

55 Years
Ewing R. Allison  Topeka
Ira Brown  Topeka
Delbert Ewing, Jr.  Topeka
Leland A. Mosher  Topeka
Ralph V. Nester  Wichita
Ralph L. Simpson  Lawrence
John H. Taiclet  Wichita
Clarence N. Wilch  Topeka
James C. Zahourek  Topeka

50 Years
James E. Barnes  Wichita
William M. Holcomb, Sr.  Wichita
Alvin J. Lovgren  Topeka
Virgil Leroy Myers  Wichita
Gary L. Norris  Lawrence
Jack L. Norris  Wichita
R.C. Schreck  Wichita
Carl D. Sundeen  Wichita

45 Years
Herman W. Cox  Lawrence
Kale Wayne Cyr  Topeka
Floyd J. Garman  Wichita
Fairl F. Harness  Frontenac
John R. Heim  Topeka
James F. Higgins  Lawrence
Dwayne W. Peaslee  Lawrence
Larry L. Stone  Topeka

40 Years
Winford Doil Cummins  Frontenac
Roy M. Halverstadt  Lawrence
Donald E. Henry  Topeka
Robert B. Herold  Wichita
Fred L. Jarvis, Sr  Wichita
Melvin R. Jones  Frontenac
Bernard A. Katrzer  Lawrence
Walter B. Lickteig  Lawrence
Marvin W. Morris  Topeka
Delmar J. Rockers  Lawrence
John Slavin  Frontenac
Mark C. Watson  Topeka

35 Years
Johannes W. Borst  Wichita
Arthur E. Fletcher, Jr.  Topeka
Joe A. Klinkon  Lawrence
Charles A. Rice  Frontenac
James N. Snell  Wichita
David H. Staley  Lawrence
Patrick J. Sullivan  Frontenac

30 Years
Edwin H. Bouton  Lawrence
Willard R. Burns  Frontenac
Richard P. Dixon  Wichita
Billy D. Mahan  Wichita
Michael W. Pray  Wichita
John C. Slavin  Frontenac

25 Years
Michael L. Convell  Wichita
Harry J. Hill  Topeka
Kenneth W. Taylor  Wichita
Gary W. Townsend  Topeka

Members attending the Wichita Retiree Dinner on November 7th.

Past Business Managers pictured on front row (left to right) are John Bernardi, Lloyd Diamond and Clarence.

Lawrence and Topeka area retirees are pictured (left to right) front row, James Cantwell, Walter Lickteig, Gary Norris and David Staley. Back row Topeka Representative Kirk Miller, James Higgins, Art Fletcher, Jr., and Lawrence Representative Denis Wittman.


R.C. Schreck, 50 years; Manager Richard Taylor; Fred Jarvis Sr., 40 years; Dispatcher Bill Urton; James Barnes, 50 years; Rep. John Shepherd Jr. and Bill Holcomb Sr., 50 years.

Frontenac Retirees: front row Willard Burns, Al Pintar, Bill Schneickert and James Red Sturgeon.

Boilermaker Mike Stutzman’s twenty-eight-foot donated motor home.

Union Members Support Each Other

Boilermaker Mike Stutzman and his wife Jodie have donated their 28-foot motor home to retired Business Manager Jerry McManus of Louisiana Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #60.

Stutzman approached Local #441 Topeka Representative Kirk Miller with his offer to help a union member in need. Miller’s efforts identified McManus who had lost his home and most of his belongings in the Katrina disaster.

The McManus family was living in a 12-foot pop-up without utilities. Local #60 current Business Manager Lance Albin thanked Stutzman for his kindness and generosity on behalf of his entire membership. McManus’s son-in-law Melvin Kennedy came to Kansas to receive the motor home from Mrs. Jodie Stutzman.

UA Local #441
Retiree Meetings

All retirees meet the first Wednesday of each month at 10am in the Wichita Hall. All retirees, spouses and widows are welcome to attend any and all retiree meetings. Next meetings are January 4th and February 1st.

Frontenac Retirees
Meet each Tuesday morning at the Home Café in Cherokee, Kansas at 8am.

Lawrence Retirees
Currently there are no meetings scheduled. The Lawrence retirees are encouraged to get together.

Wichita Retirees
Breakfast meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 9am rotating between the Copper Oven at 2409 W. 13th and the Spears Restaurant at 4323 W. Maple. The January meeting will be at the Copper Oven, February at Spears, March at the Copper Oven and April at Spears.

All retired members and their families are invited to join. For more information contact Jim Wilbert at 722-6859.

UA Local #441
Plumbers & Pipefitters
Monthly Union Meetings

The Executive Board recommended and the membership approved to schedule our regular monthly meetings on the third Saturday of each month on a four-month trial basis beginning in October. The purpose is to increase membership participation.

The next meetings are on December 17th and January 21st at 10am in the Wichita Union Hall at 1330 E. First. No information meetings in the other areas are scheduled during this time.

Topeka Area Work

The outage at the Jeffery Energy Center went well. Our members performed this work for our new signatory contractor Day and Zimmerman. Our experience significantly contributed to our new contractor’s success on this job. We had up to 52 trades persons working at the height of the shutdown.

Work has stabilized for the winter. There are some ethanol plants planned for along the Nebraska border.

Contacts are being made with area politicians for their support of our labor issues. Our PAC Fund has been a major help in gaining their interests. I want to thank members for their participation in our PAC.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Fraternally,
Kirk Miller, Topeka Area Representative
Union Benefits Help All Workers

There are several ways that unionization’s impact on wages goes beyond the workers covered by collective bargaining to affect nonunion wages, benefits, and labor practices. For example, in industries and occupations where a strong core of workplaces are unionized, nonunion employees will frequently meet union standards or at least improve compensation and labor practices beyond what they would have provided if there was no union presence. This dynamic is sometimes referred to as the “union threat effect”, to where the employees receive better pay and benefits from employers not wanting their companies unionized.

The total union advantage stood at $10.27 per hour in June 2005, with union workers earning an average of $33.42 per hour in total compensation and nonunion workers averaging $23.15 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics June 2005 survey.

Union members continue to have dramatically better workplace benefits than the nonunion workers, according to this research. Not only are union members more likely to have more benefits, they are more likely to have better benefits, too. The value of the benefits that the union workers receive ($12.50 per hour) is almost double the value for nonunion workers ($6.38). That union advantage means union workers are more likely to have health insurance, pensions, dental and vision coverage, and life insurance, paid for by the employer.

Only about 50 percent of nonunion workers had health insurance in 2004. In a lot of these cases, this is single coverage.

The results are similar for retirement benefits. Fewer than half of the nonunion workers have a retirement plan on their job. A very small percentage of nonunion workers have a defined-benefit retirement plan.

Health insurance and retirement plans are prime examples of how working under a union contract helps us provide for ourselves, our families and our future. On the average, employers contribute $3.46 per hour for health benefits for union workers compared with just $1.42 for nonunion workers. And union workers receive $2.37 an hour for retirement benefits compared with just $1.42 for nonunion workers. These are also prime examples of what union members get in return for being active members of their unions.

Fraternally,
Jim Cox, Organizer
(785) 354-8539

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wichita</td>
<td>(316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topeka</td>
<td>(785) 354-8539 Training (785) 234-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>(785) 843-3151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontenac</td>
<td>(620) 231-4280 Training (620) 724-6115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Union 441 Website: <a href="http://www.ua441.org">www.ua441.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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](http://www.ua.org)

Baldree, G.B., 93, died November 26, 2005. Most recently from Mayfield, Ky. Brother in good standing for 54 years.

Brault, Edward T., 75, died September 27, 2005. Most recently from Topeka, Ks. Brother in good standing for 47 years.

Brown, James K., 88, died December 8, 2005. Most recently from Kanopolis, Ks. Brother in good standing for 56 years.

Cornelson, George K., 92, died October 29, 2005. Most recently from Meade, Ks. Brother in good standing for 54 years.

Johnson, John A., 80, died April 16, 2005. Most recently from Salina, Ks. Brother in good standing for 37 years.

Kraus, Clyde R., 91, died September 28, 2005. Most recently from Mulvane, Ks. Brother in good standing for 57 years.


Schmidt, Arthur J., 72, died November 1, 2005. Most recently from Lawrence, Ks. Brother in good standing for 47 years.

Sweepston, Harold E., 72, died October 9, 2005. Most recently from Inman, Ks. Brother in good standing for 53 years.

Notices of brothers and sisters passing are posted on our website as received: [www.ua441.org](http://www.ua441.org). 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.
New Kansas Continuing Education Requirements

Brothers and Sisters,

Over the past several weeks a good number of you have called the Training Office requesting information on the Continuing Education requirement added to the renewal of both the Plumbing and Mechanical certifications (license). This requirement was put in place, (effective 7/01/05) with the passage of HOUSE BILL NO. 2058. This legislation added two (2) important requirements to the existing “Block Testing Legislation” (K.S.A. 12-1508, 12-1509 & 12-1541, 12-1542).

1. Continuing Education Hours for license renewal
2. Minimum Field experience before sitting for the standard examination.

The actual wording of the legislation is provided below:

“requiring all persons receiving such license annually to obtain not less than 12 hours biennially of continuing education approved by such local governing body. Continuing education may be provided by the local governing body [or a nationally recognized trade association]. All 12 hours of education may consist of code up-date training on the code currently adopted in the county or city where licensing is being requested.”

“Before sitting for the standard examination designated by K.S.A. 12-1508 or 12-1541, and amendments thereto, an applicant for the journeyman certificate shall demonstrate documented proof of a minimum of two years field experience. “Field experience” means working under the direct supervision of a person having a valid journeyman certificate or masters certificate or attending trade related schooling. No more than one year of the requirement may be satisfied by trade related schooling. Schooling shall consist of a minimum of 240 hours classroom training.”

“Before sitting for the standard examination designated by K.S.A. 12-1508 OR 12-1541, and amendments thereto, an applicant for the master certificate shall demonstrate documented proof of having a valid journeyman certificate for a minimum of two years or having field experience for a minimum of four years.”

Your Local Union Office and The Training Department Office are currently working with several state wide organizations with the intent of setting up a process for approving continuing education courses that will be approved by all cities and counties state wide. Please be assured that your training department will be offering “no charge” classes of approved continuing education for certification (license) renewal. A listing of approved classes will be posted in future newsletters.

One last and very important note. As of November 1, 2005 the Training Programs in Frontenac, Topeka, and Wichita merged to form the “Plumbers & Pipefitters Apprenticeship Training of Kansas”. This merged Apprentice Training Program will maintain local area Training Committees (which will oversee local area Training Centers) as well as a State Training Committee made up of Management and Labor representatives from each of the local area Training Committees.

The State Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JAC) is made up as follows;

Bobbie J. Norris Jr. Management—Frontenac
Neil Carlson Management—Topeka
Rick Drinnen Management—Wichita
Mike Wolownik Labor —Frontenac
Kirk Miller Labor—Topeka
Richard L. Taylor Labor—Wichita

Please feel free to contact the Training Office @ 1-316-267-8508 regarding your training needs.

Fraternally,

Jerry Jones, Director