Bullard’s 14 Kids Donate To Training

Bill Bullard of the Topeka area received a special Christmas present Saturday, December 27, 2003. Bullard has raised 14 kids as a union member. This year’s Christmas present from his children was a cash gift to Local #441’s training program.

Harrah’s Work Gained by Contract

Harrah’s Prairie Band Casino has never been labor friendly. We were not involved in building the Casino nor have we been able to participate in upgrades. Recently Harrah’s announced a $55 million expansion plan.

Our new Topeka agreement helped our signatory contractor

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all of you have had great holidays and that you and your family are well.

As of this writing, Local 441 has been in existence for ten months. Enough time has passed for all of us to have seen and experienced many changes. The most noticeable is the fact that

Kansas AFL-CIO Convention Supports Responsible Bidding

By Lonny G. Wright, J.D.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius spoke to over a hundred delegates at the Kansas State AFL-CIO convention held in Topeka, November 19 and 20. Sebelius said the State of Kansas will work to reduce the high cost of health benefits. Kansas intends to coordinate its $2 billion in medical purchases to leverage buying power for consumer savings. Canadian drug pricing will also be looked at.

Business Manager Richard Crusinberry, Representatives James Cottrell, Kirk Miller, Roger Jameson, and Richard Taylor attended the convention with
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Union Offices – Please give us a call with any questions you might have regarding member dues, death benefits, work, lay offs, address changes, etc.

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wichita</td>
<td>(316) 265-4291</td>
<td>(316) 267-8508</td>
<td>(316) 264-2339</td>
<td>(800) 423-6517</td>
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<td>Topeka</td>
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<td>Frontenac</td>
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<td>(620) 724-6115</td>
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</table>

Local Union 441 Website: www.ua441.org

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  www.ppi-fund.org  (316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Ks www.bcbsks.com  (800) 432-3990 or (785) 291-4180
Delta Dental of Kansas  www.deltadentalks.com  (800) 234-3375 or (316) 264-4511

If you have a Pension through the United Association, the National Pension office is where you 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 retirement packet 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

Herndon, Cecil E., 64, died January 13, 2003. Most recently of Riverton, Ks. Brother in good standing for 35 years.


Smith, Claude T., 87, died December 2, 2003. Most recently of Scammon, Ks. Brother in good standing for 60 years.
Brothers and Sisters, I hope you and your families had a great holiday and are looking forward to a prosperous and work filled 2004. As most of you well know, 2003 was not a good year as far as hours worked. In fact, statewide we were down over 200,000 manhours in comparison to 2002 hours worked. Those 200,000 manhours represent approximately $4,600,000 in missed income to our membership and $200,000 in assessment income to this Local Union.

So what does the work picture look like for 2004? Needless to say, it is not going to take much to beat this past year. As the saying goes, none of us have a crystal ball, but all indicators point to a sizable increase in the industrial market this year nationwide.

The U.S. relies heavily on coal-fired generation capacity to meet energy demands. According to Industrial Information Resources, Incorporated, Houston, Texas, there are currently about 410 active projects representing $14 Billion in capital and maintenance spending, scheduled to kick off this year. Approximately 50 percent of the electrical generating capacity in the U.S. is produced by coal. That trend is expected to increase in the future as energy demand increases.

In 2004, capital and maintenance spending activity at coal-fired Power Plants will be high due to the continuation of environmental compliance projects activity and a refocus on maintenance work that had been delayed in 2003 and deferred to 2004. Several new Powerhouses have already broken ground with more on the books waiting to get started.

With the Clean Fuels Act that was passed last year, we are seeing a large number of Refineries starting work or planning work to update their facilities so as to be in compliance with the Act. This has also spurred a renewed interest in Ethanol Plants.

Locally, we also have the potential for a large amount of industrial and commercial work to kick off. The (Continued on page 14)
we no longer belong to a “small” local. Even the former Wichita Local 171, with 650 plus Members still was able to provide the personal touch which so many of the Members appreciated and may have even taken for granted. Now, with all the Members of the former four Locals rolled into one, that “personal touch” is hard to achieve. This seems to be the most difficult change to overcome even though we are constantly working toward that goal.

Before the consolidation it was not uncommon to go through a list of familiar names and make a few calls to inform various Members of upcoming events or to remind them of dues needing to be caught up. Now, the lists are long and the only efficient method to contact those individuals is usually a mass mailing. The personal touch is difficult to continue. The workload is such that it is difficult sometimes for Members to get in touch with the Business Manager or even the Representatives in each area on a daily basis. If that is the case, always leave a message either with one of the office assistants or on the individual’s voice mail. Your call will be returned. If there is an emergency, it will be treated as such and the individual will be contacted immediately.

Bottom line, Brothers and Sisters, things have changed. For the future of Local #441 to be successful, we must all adapt to these changes.

To further add to the difficulties of consolidating a State into one local, and contrary to the present political administration’s reports, the economy is in the toilet. Meaning very little work to go around. In the year 2000, statewide we accumulated 1.7 million manhours worked by the then various existing state local unions. The work has dropped off steadily since then to the current estimate for 2003 of 1.3 million. If you then compound that with the rising health care costs, this has become a very difficult and unique time.

The new Local #441 at the end of its first twelve months in existence is going to be down approximately $400,000 in total assets as compared to where it was when the Local was formed. It seems to be the judgment of the Members that this loss is due to the consolidation. No doubt, the consolidation has contributed to the loss, but it is by no means the only culprit. For example take the $1.50 that was added to the Health and Welfare premium January 1, 2003. With that $1.50 being placed on the fringe benefit side of our total package and not the base wages side, there were no assessments taken from that amount. Over the period of one year, based on the average hours worked this year statewide, the assessment for that $1.50 would have produced in receipts for this Local Union approximately $90,000. In addition to that we must consider manhours worked. As stated in the previous paragraph, we are down from 1.7 million manhours worked three years ago to 1.3 million, a difference of 400,000 hours. Convert those lost manhours to income and the assessment generated by that income would have been over $400,000. The two examples just given would have increased receipts for this Local Union by approximately $490,000. There would actually have been an increase to or assets of $90,000 instead of the expected deficit of $400,000. To say the consolidation alone has caused the financial loss is unfair. The reality is that the work needs to come back.

Just as you as an individual Member are dependent upon hours worked to provide for yourself and your family, this Local Union also depends on manhours worked to cover its operating expenses. Regardless of what the assessment percentage is, if the manhours are down, the income to this Local Union will be down.

Our work has always run in cycles and the industrial side of our work has been stifled for approximately three years. Now it looks as if that may change. Powerhouse, Refinery, and Chemical Plant projects are once again being projected. Let’s not forget that we are the best trained and most experienced work force in the state. Let’s use our combined strengths to go after these jobs.

Richard L. Crusinberry
Local 441 Business Manager
Kansas Training

The Wichita Training Program is currently taking applications for two instructor positions. One position is instructing 2nd year apprentices on drainage, water distribution, basic air conditioning, science & drawing. The second position is instructing 5th year apprentices on advanced drawing, gas installations, metrics, hydronics, and building start-up. Forward a resume to the Wichita Training Office if you are interested in applying for one of the positions.

Certifications are becoming increasingly important in securing work for the tradesmen and our union sector. The Training Department at Wichita goes through a tremendous effort to maintain the notifications of your certifications throughout the state.

We have some changes with your Medical Gas certifications. If your employer isn't turning in your certification, when you get notification, you can go to either the Topeka Training Center—if you are in the Topeka area or the Lawrence area—the first or second Monday of each month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Rick Salyer or Gregg Desch will take care of getting your braze continuity up-to-date for you.

In the Wichita area appointments will no longer be required. You can take your braze continuity on the first or second Monday of the month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Richard Taylor, your dispatcher, and I talk in great length at times about things that are hampering people from going to work. We know that there are many of you who are highly qualified and skilled welders that do not have UA certification. Those of you in that category may have realized how important that certification is in going to work, not only here locally but also on the road.

The Training Department will do everything possible to accommodate getting you scheduled for testing. With the welding certification, as with the braze, we track the certification. Any one of you that would like to take any of the UA weld certification tests should get in touch with the Wichita office and get your name on the list. When we

(Continued on page 6)
have five or six people either in the Wichita area or the Topeka/Lawrence area, we will set up a test.

Another certification and credential that members should be interested in is Hazwopper. A class is starting in the middle of February. One portion of our Hazwopper training is confined space entry. In our industry, confined space entry is a very important credential to have. This is one eight-hour day. We will include anyone who would like to have this certification in our Hazwopper training. Call our training office and let us know.

A backflow prevention class can be set up in the Wichita area. When we have the numbers in Topeka we will schedule another class there.

The training office has received several calls wanting a ten-hour OSHA class. This is an important certification when you are on the road. If you are interested in getting this certification call my office or let Richard Taylor know when you call in to check on jobs. When we get ten people or more, we will set up another class. We would like to conduct two or three classes.

There is pending legislation that is going to have some effect on testing for craft licenses in the State of Kansas. We are looking at other people being involved and being able to test.

We are talking to our elected representatives and our lobbyists about being able to put some requirements in for prior experience before you can take the test. Some of you will be contacted and asked to get involved with our efforts and to call your state representative and urge them to vote for this legislation.

Jerry Jones
Training Coordinator
There has been a slight improvement for manpower in Zone 2B since our last quarterly newsletter. Service and maintenance contracts have picked up a bit, but pipe fabrication is down. More manpower for pipe fabrication will be needed first quarter of 2004. We are experiencing 5% unemployment in the area at this time.

Northeast Kansas Building and Construction Trades held a legislative luncheon December 3, 2003, at the Knights of Columbus, Lawrence, Kansas. There were several from State and Local government in attendance. This is an opportunity to discuss issues facing working families in Kansas.

We live here, buy homes, purchase goods, and add to the stability of Local and State government. In other words, as taxpayers, we have a strong interest in economic development. As President of Northeast Kansas Building Trades it is my pleasure to announce we have recently hired longtime respected lobbyist Rebecca Rice to work with economic development, city and county government agencies to attract new business and help with expansion of our existing industry.

There are multi-million dollar contracts let at the city and county level each year. For our signatory contractors to have a bigger market share and more consideration for these contracts, it all comes down to one and the most important objective, more work for our members.

Fraternally,

James Cottrell
Business Representative

Illegal Hires May Lead to Loss of Work

Nile Dillmore, a Wichita lawmaker, is seeking penalties against companies that hire undocumented workers. Representative Dillmore proposes to ban companies for five years if they are found to have workers without legal status.

“It's unfortunately one of our dirty little secrets,” Dillmore said. They keep labor rates artificially low, and are easily exploited.

Dillmore has prefilled his bill for the 2004 legislative session, which begins January 12, 2004.

As proposed, the five-year penalty would also apply to the general contractor if a subcontractor was found to have undocumented workers.

We can help this bill pass by calling our state representatives and asking them to support Dillmore’s legislation, which will be House Bill 2479. To locate your state representative call: 1-800-748-4408. This is the governor’s office and they will assist you. The web site for Kansas is http://www.accesskansas.org. You can find your representatives there. Area agents will be happy to assist you as well.

Thank you.

Daryl Burnham

Parts of this article were taken from December 10, 2003 Wichita Eagle.
Topeka Zone 2-A
“Four Apprentices Achieve Perfect Attendance”

classes that has ever turned out. Four of the apprentices had five years perfect attendance. Roy D. Ridgeway was our keynote speaker and I feel we had the best speaker for the best class. It was a memorable night. Congratulations to the class of Leo Beaulieu, Justin Brock, Charles Griffin, Nathan Haley, Shaun O’Keeffe and Steven Stenger. Justin Brock received Top Apprentice Award.

Fraternally yours,
Kirk W. Miller
Business Representative

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a rough year in our area for employment in 2003. By the list of jobs in the planning, design and bid stages, it looks like some area work will start kicking off in late February 2004.

Work on the coast is starting to call home some of the travelers to their local area, and this will open work for some of our travelers. Also, with 2004 being an election year, it should help with the work coming up. Make sure your licenses and certifications are current.

On November 18, 2003, the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) had a turn out ceremony for six apprentices and one of the best apprenticeship class of 2003.

Topeka Retirees February 19th Luncheon

Thursday, February 19th at 1:30 p.m., the Topeka area retirees are having a luncheon at Laribee’s Steak House, 425 SW 30th, Topeka, for retirees, wives and wives of deceased retirees. Open menu and pick up your own tab. Please call me by Sunday, February 15th, so I can tell the restaurant how many are coming.

On November 18, 2003, the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) had a turn out ceremony for six apprentices and one of the best apprenticeship class of 2003.

Topeka Retirees February 19th Luncheon

Frank Devore and Don Ricketts (both deceased) were also at Iwo Jima with the 5th Marines. These are just four of our many World War II vets.

Our Wednesday morning coffee is doing really well at Hardee’s at 21st and Wanamaker. Approx. 8 a.m.

Kyle Hadden (785) 228-1018

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS
1st Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at 3906 NW 16th Street, Topeka, Ks.
Phone: (785) 354-8539

Next Meeting Dates:
February 4
March 3
April 7

Open menu and pick up your own tab. Please call me by Sunday, February 15th, so I can tell the restaurant how many are coming.

Fifty-nine years ago on February 19th was D-Day on Iwo Jima. Dick Gallagher in the 5th Marines landed in the afternoon of the 19th and he was wounded on Saturday, February 24th.

Ray (Whitey) Armstrong was Navy aboard the USS Hinsdale. He refueled Dukws about 1000 yards off-shore for the first week.

Our Wednesday morning coffee is doing really well at Hardee’s at 21st and Wanamaker. Approx. 8 a.m.

Kyle Hadden (785) 228-1018
Frontenac Zone 1-B

“Retirees Meet Every Tuesday”

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Hope the New Year finds everyone healthy and with the New Year hopes of the work picking up looks good.

For our retirees. Some of the retirees meet each Tuesday morning around 9 a.m. at the Home Café in Cherokee, Kansas, and would like to see more of our retirees there.

In closing I hope we can all stay strong and united to regain our market share in Kansas and make it a better year for all of 441.

Fraternally yours,

Roger E. Jameson
Business Representative

Bill Bullard’s Union Heritage

(Continued from page 1)

That morning Business Representative Kirk Miller interviewed Bill Bullard about his union history. Miller’s additional purpose was to give one of his daughters a special Certificate of Recognition from the Plumbers and Pipefitters Training Program. The Certificate recognizes Bullard’s Outstanding Service to the union. He received the Certificate in front of one hundred family members at a Christmas family gathering.

Bullard began as a helper at the Coffeyville Refinery before World War II. Returning from the Air Force, Bullard joined the union and gained a reputation for problem solving. At the Bartlesville Refinery solder joints were failing. Bullard noticed that inside the failed joints the solder was not getting in under a special snap ring. This early success led him into drawings and earning his strong reputation as a ‘Print Man’.

As a first year apprentice Kirk Miller met Bullard for the first time at the Jeffery Energy Center. Bullard rode in on a motorcycle. Bullard retired a few years later but the apprentices thought he was a cool union man. After retirement Bullard became active in the Habitat for Humanity. He was able to get union involvement in constructing seven or eight good houses. Previously one of his daughters had designed their family home that was constructed almost entirely with union workers.

Kansas Training Coordinator Jerry Jones said Brothers like Bullard help keep strength in the union movement. Our training program would be pleased to receive gifts or endowments. For details contact Jerry Jones at (316) 267-8508.
Harrah’s Casino

(Continued from page 1)

Young’s Mechanical gain this work for Local #441.

On the day of the bid decision Business Manager Richard Crusinberry received a call from Mel Copeland of Young’s Mechanical. Copeland asked if we would honor the new Topeka agreement for the casino project. Crusinberry answered that we would and Young’s received the bid for all of the piping work.

The Ironworker and Carpenter locals only received 50 to 60 percent of the work available for their trades. They have been running ads in the local media informing readers of Harrah’s unfairness in their areas. The union electricians received very little work.

Kirk Miller, Topeka Area Business Representative, said this work has brought up the annual number of hours worked in Jackson County. Previously we had only been getting 5,000 hours a year. We are now getting 1,000 hours a week and it should continue for several months.

The expansion includes the addition of 198 hotel rooms that triples the current facilities capacity. A new 12,000 square foot events center with its own kitchen and a new steak house restaurant with it’s own kitchen is scheduled to open August 15, 2004.

Wichita Retiree’s Holiday Dinner

The Wichita Retiree's held a holiday gathering at the Sweet Basil restaurant in Wichita on December 17th.

Those attending included Jack and Marjorie Parmele, John and Dolly Clark, Melvin McMichael and his daughter Janet Penley, Darrell and Joyce Knapp, Jerry and Virginia Runyan, Cal and Ellen Rockmore, 54, died Sunday, December 21, 2003. Attendance at the services overflowed the Holy Temple Church Of God In Christ in Wichita, Kansas. Services were moved to this larger facility in anticipation of a large community response.

Rockmore was a member in good standing for twenty-one years. He became an apprentice in 1975. He served as Piping Superintendent at Mechanical Systems Incorporated for eighteen years.

Rockmore Service Overflows Church

Over one hundred brothers and sisters attended the Memorial Services for JAC instructor, Sam Rockmore.

Sam is survived by his wife, three daughters, one son, two grandchildren, his mother, three sisters and three brothers.

Sam Rockmore
01/26/1949-12/21/2003

Sam served as an instructor for the Joint Apprentice Committee for over 10 years.

Jerry Jones, JAC Coordinator, said Rockmore contributed significantly to the training of over two hundred apprentices.

Wichita Retirees and their families dine at the Sweet Basil Restaurant

The Wichita Retirees meet the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am in the Hall. They meet at 9 a.m. for breakfast on the second Wednesday of each month. Call Jim Wilbert at (316) 722-6859.
Facts About Our Industry

According to the latest 1997 U.S. Census, 7,115 establishments employed a combined average of 48,985 construction workers. A total payroll of $1,755,602,000 including $133,895,000 (7.62%) in benefits were paid to the construction workers that performed the following construction work in Kansas:

TOTAL NEW, REMODEL and MAINTENANCE CONSTRUCTION IN KANSAS $8,762,160,000

Building construction total $6,175,430,000
- Single-family houses 2,266,748,000
- Apartment buildings 189,371,000
- Manufacturing and light industrial buildings 670,750,000
- Manufacturing and light industrial warehouses 172,701,000
- Hotels and Motels 240,801,000
- Office buildings 593,653,000
- All other commercial buildings 577,487,000
- Commercial Warehouses 132,869,000
- Religious 102,532,000
- Educational buildings 438,032,000
- Healthcare and institutional buildings 437,040,000
- Public safety buildings 85,024,000
- Farm buildings, nonresidential 125,514,000
- Amusement, social and recreational buildings 78,904,000
- Other building construction 64,004,000

Nonbuilding construction, total $2,523,569,000
- Highways, streets and related work 1,062,606,000
- Private driveways and parking areas 186,925,000
- Bridges, tunnels, and elevated highways 146,236,000
- Sewers, water mains and related facilities 235,276,000
- Pipeline construction other than sewer or water 183,457,000
- Power and communication transmission 197,763,000
- Power plants 53,578,000
- Blast furnaces, petroleum refineries, etc. 65,382,000
- Sewage and water treatment plants 144,731,000
- Other nonbuilding construction 247,615,000

Work Not Specified By Kind $63,162,000

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding

One thousand sixty-five (1,065) Plumbing, heating, air-conditioning or mechanical contractors employing a total of 6,886 construction workers performed $991,048,000 of the work listed above. Their total payroll for these workers was $199,495,000, an average of $28,971 including benefits. These figures only include the employees and not the self employed.

Phil Petty, Daryl Burnham and Jim Cox
Kansas Organizers
“Reduce Cost of Health Benefits”
Governor Sebelius’ Goal for Kansas

(Continued from page 1)

Organizers Phil Petty, Daryl Burn- ham, and Jim Cox. The convention voted to support responsible bidding on construction projects. Responsible bidding allows a contract to be awarded on the best value for the money spent. This saves money over the life of the project and favors our contractors. This is a continuing goal for our organizers.

House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney, Senator Anthony Hensley and Representative Candy Ruff also attended the convention. Representative Ruff assisted the Kansas Plumbing and Pipefitters Local#441 last session in our successful effort to keep independent third party testing for our trade certifications. The Mechanical Trades Advisory Council, formed by Brother and Chairman Jerry Jones, was a leader in this successful legislative effort.

"Project Union Made" will establish an Internet web page that will provide a continually updated list of union-made products. Voting is not enough. We need to become economic activists, explained Matt Bates, AFL-CIO Union Label secretary-treasurer. Bates also discussed his department's shift towards fighting for good jobs.

The delegates to the two-day convention passed resolutions opposing fast track and the Free Trade Area of Americas proposal. Social Security privatization is also opposed as well as the President's Postal Commission recommendations that would restrict collective bargaining rights of postal employees.

The convention supports asking all candidates asking for labor’s endorsement to sign a right to organize pledge. Restoring a prevailing wage law was discussed.

A Death Benefit Plan has been created for Local #441 members. A three-dollar ($3.00) per member payment will provide $3,000.00 to a member's family within a few days of the members death. Details of the plan were recently mailed to members.

A Designation of Beneficiary form was included in the letter. This form should be completed and returned in the enclosed postage paid envelope. The beneficiary's social security number and date of birth are needed. It is important to have the signatures of two witnesses, neither of which may be the beneficiary. Beneficiaries may be changed at any time.

All present members of Local #441 are Participants in the Plan. An initial $10.00 special dues assessment applies to each member that was not already a participant in a similar plan of former locals 165, 171, 664, or 763.

Members may decline participation by opting out of the plan. A member may only opt out of the plan in January of each year. A form may be completed in the Wichita office or received by certified mail. An opted out member may resume participation in the plan in January of each year after paying the death benefits incurred during the opted out period.
Health and Welfare Plan Changes

If you are a Participant in the Health and Welfare Plan, you should have received by now a Summary of Material Modifications (SMM) letter that explains the changes to the Plan that were effective January 1, 2004.

You should have also received (or will be receiving in the near future) new identification cards from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. If not, you should continue to present your old identification card when seeking medical services. When you receive the new identification card, please destroy the old card.

I am sure that all members are aware that the contribution rate to the Plan increased from $4.00 per hour worked to $4.50 per hour worked and that we are now covered by a “share pay” benefit package.

On December 15th in Wichita and December 17th in Topeka the H&W Plan held employee educational meetings. Present at these meetings were the Plan’s BCBS representatives and the Trustees. The purpose of the meetings was to explain the changes to the Plan and to answer questions about the Plan. We had 24 members present in Wichita and 30 in Topeka.

For those of you who were not able to attend, these changes were necessary because the Plan has experienced catastrophic losses during the last three plan years. We have reduced our reserves by over 3 million dollars during this time period and now have about 2 million in reserve to pay claims. The cause for this loss is twofold. First, over the last 2 years the number of hours worked has fell by 430,000 hours. At the old contribution rate of $4.00 per hour that’s an income loss of $1,720,000. Medical claims have increased by 46% in 2 years ($1,681,261). This increase is entirely attributable to the amounts paid to doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and other medical care providers for services provided to our members and their families.

The changes made by the Trustees should help us to stem the tide. If we had not increased the contribution rate and the deductible last year, the Plan would not have survived. Unlike past changes, the Share Pay program will provide benefits to those who use the benefits the least. Those unfortunate members that have severe medical problems will pay more.

Like you, I ask myself when will this end. Truthfully, I cannot say. Though almost all sources say the economy is well on the way to recovery, we have not seen a corresponding increase in jobs. Nor has the current administration addressed in any meaningful way the crises in health care. Until we have National Health Care Reform I expect this trend to continue.

I hope you had a happy and healthy holiday season.

Joe Pucci
Administrator

*Should any of the foregoing conflict with the actual rules of the Plan(s) as stated in the Plan Documents, the Plan Documents will prevail.
battle here, as it is in several areas, is whether or not the project will go to a fair Contractor. This is why we must continue to intensify our efforts to organize non-union contractors or find ways to prevent them from procuring the work. We have to regain market share to survive and prosper as proud Union Members and as a Local Union.

The out of work list has held steady in comparison to what was reported in the October newsletter. We had 246 on the master list in October with 76 of those on travel card and 24 apprentices. As of this writing there are 251 on the master list, 82 on travel card, and 19 apprentices.

This has been a tough year for many of our Brothers and Sisters. If the work comes back this year we will certainly take advantage of it and be very thankful for it. But keep in mind that this year is an election year and we can not forget the hard times we have been through and must strive to put a labor friendly candidate in every political office both locally and nationally. Do not be deceived by the apparent upturn in the economy. It will be difficult for labor unions to survive the next four years if the present administration remains in office. This means that each and every one of us needs to be registered and get out and vote to support the candidate of your choice. If you have not signed the authorization form for the PAC, (Political Action Committee), please consider doing so. The intent of the committee is to support candidates that are “labor friendly,” candidates that if elected will support labor issues and aid in securing more jobs for all of us. That is the only criteria that will be looked at, party affiliation whether Democrat or Republican does not matter.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to call or stop by and see me. Until next time, may you and yours be kept safe and God bless.
ADDRESS CHANGES
It is important for members to keep their current address and phone numbers up to date with the Hall. We will notify Health and Welfare, the United Association and the National Pension.

WORKING IN ANOTHER LOCAL
If you go to work in another local without going through the hall, please make sure we know. Your Health and Welfare benefits need to be received and credited to your account.

HONORABLE WITHDRAWAL
The UA Constitution Section 162-166 addresses Honorable Withdrawals. A Withdrawal allows a member to be reinstated without an initiation fee. There is an initial fee of $100.00. And the yearly fee is $100.00. Fifty percent of the fee is sent to the United Association. Honorable Withdrawals can immediately be placed on the out of work list with a $100.00 payment.

A member applicant is required to be a member in good standing for two continuous years and cannot be working at the trade. A form needs to be completed including a reason for the withdrawal such as "not working at the trade." Honorable Withdrawals are not eligible to receive National burial expenses benefits.

REDUCTION IN FORCE
If you are laid off, be sure to notify the Hall so that you are placed on the out of work list. Contractors do not always notify us of the lay off.

WICHITA VACATION ACCOUNTS
Money deducted from your paycheck is not credited to your account at the Mid American Credit Union until the Credit Union actually receives the funds. Mid American is now charging a service charge for account balances under One Hundred ($100.00) dollars. There is also an initial account opening charge of Ten Dollars ($10.00).

UA BURIAL EXPENSE BENEFITS
UA Constitution Sections 168-173 apply to the National Burial Expense Benefit that provides for the payment of the funeral bill. Three copies of the death certificate and a copy of the funeral bill are required to file for the benefit. If the funeral home bill has not been paid then the UA writes their check to the funeral home. The benefit amount depends on the number of years in good standing. They start at $550.00 for 6 months and increase in 5-year increments to $2,500.00 for 35 years of service and over.
Thursday, March 4, 2004
Kansas Action Network Annual Lobby & Rally Day
Topeka State Capitol