Business Manager’s Report

The Common Good Benefits All

In this article I will elaborate on the many Local 441 activities that have taken place since the last newsletter. But first, allow me to point out a very important observation concerning the commitment to the common good which is now found throughout the membership of Local 441. That commitment is the tie that binds us all together.

The common good recognizes that one’s own personal benefit is best achieved through a commitment to the needs of all our Brothers and Sisters. Essential to this belief is a healthy balance between self-reliance and living as a cohesive group bound together by our heritage and a determination to succeed through unity of action. Everyone benefits when everyone contributes. This is the concept centered on organized labor and the structure followed in developing the UA. That structure is now fully ingrained within Local 441. Over the years, the unity across the state has grown and is illustrated more and more as the membership of Local 441 work together to protect our industry and perform on the job without bias toward one another, but rather to achieve quality and perfection by implementing our knowledge and craftsmanship in solidarity.

Members of Local 441 are without question some of the best in the industry. It is with great pride that I have the honor of serving as your Business Manager and have the opportunity to represent the membership and work with a professional team of officers and office staff. The future of Local 441 is bright. We will continue to build and establish good working relationships with our contractors, the industrial community, and the end users that expect a job well done. Our membership is growing with quality people as we train for the future every day of the week. I have no doubt that Local 441 members will step up to every challenge in the future. Thank you to the membership as you continue to represent your local with pride and excellence.

May was especially busy. Apprentice interviews were conducted in each zone by separate committees made up of members and contractors from those zones. This lead to new first year apprentices ready for dispatch June 1st. Also, in May we honored our retirees with three separate banquets across the state to accommodate the various retiree groups. Pictures of those events are included in this issue. And, of course, a big part of May was dedicated to contract negotiations that culminated with membership meetings in each zone to ratify the new agreements and allocate wage increases. May also marked the start of a new Business Agent for Zone 1A, Steve Watson, who is proving to be a very valuable addition to the Local 441 staff and has recently taken over the duties of Dispatcher.

[Business Managers Report, cont’d on page 7]
Employment Dispatch

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

RETIEMENT

Yes, Brothers and Sisters, this is one rumor that is true. After 38 years, I am retiring.

Mainly what I want to write about is the last 12 years when I took the Business Agent/Dispatcher position. I have tried to build a working relationship with every member of our local and as a result feel like I have made a lot of friends along the way. You gave me the honor of representing Local 441 at the last three UA conventions which allowed me to make acquaintances all over the country which put members to work and manned our work when we needed travelers. Putting members to work was my greatest satisfaction with this position which outweighed the bad.

After consolidation our membership hit a low of 1,203 members. We have now grown to 1,445 which is a new record. Twelve years ago our H&W was all but bankrupt with just $1.8 million in the fund. The trustees have added benefits through the years and that fund is now at $35 million dollars strong.

Our local pension is 94% funded. If you keep doing what you have by adding a little every time there is a wage increase, the trustees will be looking at a form of increase to the benefit.

Going from night school to day school for the apprentice program was a long process, but worth every hurdle we went through to get it. Currently there are 218 apprentices and that is our future to success. Mike Magennis and the instructors are doing an outstanding job of training our future work force.

It has been my honor to assist Richard Taylor in these accomplishments. We are elected and appointed to leave the local better than we found it and I feel that has been done and will continue.

Steve Watson has taken my place as dispatcher and I truly believe he will take the dispatching to a new level. Please give him the same respect and courtesy you have shown me over the years and I know he will make you proud.

I want to thank all the retired agents and current agents that have helped me anytime I needed it, day, night or weekends and always had my back.

Thanks Brothers and Sisters. It’s been a great 38 years!

Fraternally,

Bill Upton (316) 265-4291
(RETIRED!) Business Representative/Dispatcher

Manhattan/Fort Riley Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As summer comes to an end and students return to class, most work on school renovation and maintenance also comes to an end. Work on KSU Seaton Hall continues along with a few smaller projects. US Engineering and Mann Mechanical have both hired help recently. Additional manpower will be required as the NBAF project progresses. The end of summer also means fall outages are coming up. Work performed during Energy Center outages are an important source of manhours for Local 441 members and must be properly maintained.

Congratulations to the journeyman members graduating from apprenticeship. Welcome to the new Local 441 apprentices beginning their career in the piping industry. I encourage and hope that each of you actively participate in Local Union 441. Supporting and promoting our Local Union is an important duty of each and every member.

Participating in the upcoming elections is extremely important to the future of Local 441 members. Union Brothers and Sisters along with all working men and women are under attack by many existing politicians and candidates. We must recognize and defeat our enemies while electing labor-friendly candidates.

Please consider the candidates’ views and history on workers compensation, unemployment benefits, minimum wage, prevailing wage, and right to work, collective bargaining, right to unionize, licensing, campaign financing and other labor issues. We need a large voter turnout, so please encourage and help your family members and friends to register and vote.

Everyone work safe and I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming picnics.

Fraternally,

Phil Petty (785) 640-6151
Organizer/Business Representative

Websites Make it Easy to Plan Your Trip to the Polls

If you’ve never voted before, the idea can be daunting. Never fear! Help is here!

There are many resources available in your community and online to help people become more engaged in the election process. This year is a biggie with the presidential election. The registration deadline for the November 8 General Election is Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016. At www.Vote411.org, enter your address to see if you’re registered, how to register if you’re not, find your polling place, build your ballot with the online voters’ guide and much more. You can see the races on your ballot, compare candidates’ positions, and print out a list with your preferences and take it with you to the polls on Election Day. Other good resources are myvoteinfo.voteks.org and WorkingAmericaVotes.org. The Kansas State AFL-CIO also has its endorsement list at KS.AFLCIO.org based on interviews, surveys and voting history. Vote for the people who vote for Labor!

Are YOU registered to vote? Find out at MyVoteInfo.VoteKS.org. (It’s painless and fast!)
**Upcoming Area Picnics**

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**WICHITA AREA**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016
Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Blvd, Wichita

TICKETS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU UPON RECEIPT OF RSVP Postcard
(You must bring name tags/entry tickets with you on the day of picnic to get in!)

8:30 a.m. – Zoo Opens/Visit Zoo Exhibits

11:00 a.m. – Local 441 Social @ Pavilion (New Location!)
12:00 p.m. – Lunch @ Pavilion (New Location!)
1:00 p.m. – Social/Visit Zoo Exhibits

5:00 p.m. – Zoo Closes

**TOPEKA & LAWRENCE AREA**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016
Lake Shawnee Shelter House #6, East Side of Lake Shawnee By Golf Course, Topeka

11:00 a.m. – Social
12:00 p.m. – Lunch
1:00 p.m. – Social
3:00 p.m. – Departure

**FRONTENAC AREA**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016
Frontenac Union Hall, 103 Mendicki Dr, Frontenac

11:00 a.m. – Social
12:00 p.m. – Lunch
1:00 p.m. – Social
3:00 p.m. – Departure

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**Frontenac Area**

**Turn the State Blue!**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This is an exciting time!! The upcoming state elections give us an opportunity to turn our great State of Kansas BLUE!! With the help of friends and family this is a possible feat. Rally your friends, family, and neighbors to the voting booths, knock on doors for candidates, distribute candidate signs or even a simple phone call will help.

The last day for voter registration is October 18th. Please go to the LU 441 website for more information. The State of Kansas has many seats in the House and Senate up for re-election this November. **We can place labor-friendly candidates in those seats to work for a stronger middle class.**

Work in Southeast Kansas has been a bit slow. We have had a problem getting a fair contractor to bid the available projects. However, I look at the glass as half full, since our Contractors are busy elsewhere in the state. Lawrence, Manhattan, Wichita, and western Kansas are seeing a surge in work. But I am optimistic we will get back there in the very near future.

We have been working on the upcoming Riverton Project. There is talk of getting involved in the teardown when the time comes upon us; Tank Connections started back with Richland; Design hired a Journeyman on the refrigeration side; work is picking up in the Chanute area on the HVAC side; Coffeyville is coming to a halt; there are many rumors regarding a possible sale. Central is still working on HVAC jobs. Good HVAC techs are always in need for the Coffeyville area.

Remember to get out and vote this November. As always, feel free to contact me at any time.

Fraternally Yours,

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

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**Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country and this world.**

— Sharon Salzberg

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**Topeka/Lawrence Area**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Many, many thanks to all of you that made it possible for me to represent 441 at the 39th UA Convention. We got lots of work done and got to hang out with all my Brothers during the convention. The best part of the whole week was that our Local acted and voted as one. It’s been 13 years since the merger and with each job and each gathering of our members our Local is getting stronger. We, as a local, are getting past all of the old “us against them” attitudes and replacing that with a “we are stronger together” mindset. A long time ago I had a contractor tell me that this local will never speak as one. We have too many special interests and self-serving attitudes in the local. Gradually, we have put those feelings behind us. Local 441 will continue to grow and our members will prosper as long as we remember that we are stronger when we speak with one voice and act as one body.

Let’s get to politics. We have had the Annual AFL-CIO COPE Convention this summer. There are terrific candidates supported by us. I urge each and every one of our members to go to the Kansas State AFL-CIO website and find candidates in your area to support and vote for. We cannot let the current Governor have a Senate and House of Representatives that is “lock step” with his agenda. We need voices of reason in our state government.

Did you know that Kansas has the highest sales tax on food in the country? Do you realize that the governor has borrowed $2 billion dollars from the highway funds? Right now our K-12 and Universities are cutting services and hours as the demand is growing. Even the governor’s pet project, vocational and technical training, has seen cuts in state funding. This has resulted in Community Colleges cutting classes and not investing in infrastructure, such as computers and new technology. As all of you know, we each pay into the Training Fund to support current and the next generation of work. **We know we have to invest in the future or we will slowly lose opportunities for work. Education is the future and our current government is shortchanging this vital part of our future.**

We will be scheduling CEU classes for the Fall. Once the dates have been set, we will post them on the PPATKS website. It’s very important for all of our members to check the website often so we can be made aware of training dates. I’ll post dates on my Facebook page as well as the Topeka Training Center page. If you need a particular class, please let me or the school know and we will get one scheduled. Of course this depends on participation from the members. Please check your Powersafe ID cards to see if you are up for renewal. Updating takes around two hours. Call me to set up a time. We have been helping some of our Journeyman and Apprentices get their OSHA 10 and 30 cards. I’m available to help any members that need OSHA on short notice. I’ll get you logged in to the OSHA site and set up your password then you can go home and finish online.

On a personal note, I want to congratulate Brother Bill Urton on his recent retirement. Brother, you will be missed! Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication to your craft.

Fraternally yours,

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

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Local Labor Endorsement List at KS.AFLCIO.org. Vote for the People Who Vote for LABOR!
Congratulations to our Retirees!

Three members from the Lawrence area — Doug Snook, Charles Kopp and Don Snook (l-r in group pic) — were honored for their 65 years as members of LU441. We also have many more retirees from throughout the state who have more than 50 years under their belts! Thanks to all of you for your dedication, hard work, and for helping to build our local into the respected organization that it is today.

Knowledge is learning something every day.
Wisdom is letting go of something every day.

Zen Proverb

Take the Time to Look Online! www.MyCigna.com

The Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry Health & Welfare Plan of Kansas provides Cigna programs that can help you better manage your health and save you money.

Cigna Website – www.MyCigna.com
Visit and register on this online resource to learn more about your health, including how to manage chronic conditions like diabetes, osteoporosis, acid reflux, heart disease and many more! View benefits, claims/deductible, member comparison and decision support web tools. Request an ID card. You can also request email updates on a wide variety of specific health topics, and track your medical claims at www.MyCigna.com.

Pharmacy Rx – www.MyCigna.com
Compare medication prices and locate the pharmacy nearest to you and track your pharmacy claims.

24/7/365 Cigna LIVE Customer Service and Health Information Nurse Line – 1-800-Cigna24 (1-800-244-6224)
Speak with a Cigna nurse, even in the middle of the night, for confidential assistance with emergency medical situations like high fevers, more common injuries and illnesses like the flu, treatment alternatives and home care remedies, and receive support for the most appropriate place of service (Urgent Care & Convenience Care vs. ER).

Health Assessment
Take the Health Matters online Health Assessment on MyCigna.com and receive a confidential profile of your current health and improvement recommendations. Complete this simple online questionnaire and receive a thorough review of your overall health. Learn more about the medical conditions you are at risk of getting and what you can do to improve your health and reduce that risk.

CIGNA Case Managers
Call the number on the back of your Cigna ID card. Case managers can help you manage complex, critical health conditions such as cancer, stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Crohn’s Disease, Hip/Knee Joint Replacement and more. Your case manager will work with you to: Review treatment alternatives; Help navigate care in-network; Get answers to health related questions; Review various health care alternatives; Coordinate post-hospital care.

Money-Saving Services
Online directory at MyCigna.com, or call the number on the back of your Cigna ID card. Use our directory to make sure your doctors and other health care services are part of the Cigna network.

• For laboratory and pathology tests, services from Quest Diagnostics and Laboratory Corporation of America can cost 70-75% less than the same services provided by hospital-based facilities and other laboratories.
• For MRI or CT scan, using an independent participating radiology center instead of a hospital setting can save you hundreds of dollars.
• For other procedures, including colonoscopies, endoscopies and arthroscopies, using an independent participating outpatient surgery center instead of a hospital can also save you money.

Before you receive care, use the directory to understand your options and discuss these options with your doctor.

When you have health issues or questions, the services from our Nurse Line and Case Managers are always available. See how Cigna can help you today!

Are YOU registered to vote? Find out at MyVoteInfo.VoteKS.org. (It’s painless and fast!)

Zen Proverb

Knowledge is learning something every day.
Wisdom is letting go of something every day.
Local Labor Endorsement List at KS.AFLCIO.org. Vote for the People Who Vote for LABOR!
We have seen a busy summer with many pre-jobs as new projects across the state have steadily started. This has allowed us to process 48 new First Year Apprentices into our training program as we transition 32 graduates to the Journeyman ranks. This reinforces our commitment to continue to always strive to build a qualified workforce for the future.

I also would like to thank Golf Chairman Dan McCulloch for another successful Local 441 Golf Tournament. After all the bills were paid, a check was sent to the United Association Scholarship Fund in the amount of $5,618.

Another big event this past summer took place the first week in August with the 39th UA Convention, which was held in San Diego, California. As you are aware, the UA Convention is held once every five years in which elections are conducted for all the UA Officer’s positions along with resolutions and law changes brought to the floor, many times involving modifications to the UA Constitution. I couldn’t be prouder of the 14 Delegates that were sent to represent Local 441. They all conducted themselves as professionals and stood together as a united group on the many resolutions and other business that was conducted at the convention.

An important part of the Convention was the election of a new General President. Bill Hite could not run again due to the age restriction in the UA Constitution which states that any officer reaching the age of 65 during a current term is not allowed to seek reelection. I do want to take a moment to thank Bill Hite for his great leadership in the capacity as the General President for the UA over the past 12 years. His time at the helm has been outstanding while implementing many new programs that has set the UA apart as a leader in the Building Trades.

The current General Secretary-Treasurer, Mark McMannus, was elected as the new General President and it evidenced as he took over the podium at the Convention that he will continue to move the UA forward in the right direction. Our very good friend Pat Kellett, who served as past Business Manager of St. Louis Local 562, was elected to fill the General Secretary-Treasurer position. Mike Pleasant was reelected as Assistant General President and Mike O’Mara was reelected as the International Representative for the MINK area.

Two other big items brought up that proved to be controversial centered on the voice and vote for apprentices and a 1% work assessment for traveling UA members working outside of their home jurisdiction. A law change was presented concerning the voice and vote for apprentices and after debate and discussion a vote was taken and passed.

Effective January 1, 2017, fourth and fifth year apprentices that have successfully completed their third year apprenticeship will be allowed to vote at union meetings and in Local elections. They will, however, not be eligible to run for any office until reaching Journeyman status. The 1% work assessment for travelers was also heavily debated, but a law change was presented, voted on and passed stating that effective January 1, 2017, Locals will be required to send back to the home local of the traveler 1% of the work assessment paid on that travelers behalf. We do not yet have the details on how the UA will require that this be implemented or tracked to assure the 1% work assessment makes it back to the travelers home local, but instructions are being developed and will be issued prior to the end of this year.

Here are five ways America would look different without labor unions:

1. Weekends as we know them wouldn’t exist.
2. Children would be working in factories.
3. Wages would be lower.
4. Far fewer people would have health insurance.
5. We might not have Social Security and unemployment insurance benefits.

As the summer comes to and end, we have conducted a graduation ceremony for the fifth year apprentices that have completed their apprentice training and have now successfully made the transition to Journeyman... Congratulations!!! Also, we are making preparations for the area picnics and hope that each of you can attend at least one of the gatherings.

As I sign off, I want to pay tribute to one outstanding Local 441 member and a very good friend of mine, Bill Utton. Brother Utton has served as the Dispatcher for this Local over the past 12 years.

I can tell you that being Dispatcher is the toughest job in a Local Union and not once did Bill Utton back down from his commitments or shun his responsibilities.

As he has always worked tirelessly for the membership and had their best interests at heart to make sure as many jobs as possible were filled by Local 441 members.

He established relationships throughout the UA and gained the respect of every Local he worked with. Over the past 12 years we have accomplished much as a Local Union, but not without many obstacles, problems and issues to work through. Each and every time Brother Utton was at situations from a different perspective that many times produced an unforeseen result.

We wish him well in his new title as a Local 441 Retiree. He will certainly be missed.
Local Labor Endorsement List at KS.AFLCIO.org. Vote for the People Who Vote for LABOR!
Training

I must start by saying thank you for your support and confidence in sending me to the UA convention. During the weekend convention, quite a few well-known politicians spoke in support of organized labor and apprenticeship training.

One of the most controversial votes on the convention floor was the ratification on letting apprentices vote. LU 441 delegates had mixed feelings about this issue, however, we came to a consensus to vote “no” on the issue. As you may have heard by now, the vote passed to allow 4th and 5th year apprentices the right to voice and vote at union meetings.

One concern with this issue is that our classrooms at the training center would become a political debate class throughout the day; I can promise you that this will not happen. The training staff that we will have no political opinion during working hours and while on PPATKS property, and this will continue.

At this time we have 219 apprentices starting school, with 48 of them as new 1st years. Please encourage all of them to learn as much as they can while in school, because as those of you that went through the apprenticeship program know, five years goes by very quickly. We also have 31 new journeyman turning out on September 1, 2016. Please congratulate them on this achievement and help them grow as new journeymen.

The Training Department has launched an updated webpage for the registration and information of training and CEU classes. All you have to do is look at the calendar for your area, click on the date or dates that are highlighted, fill in the information that is required, and you will be registered for the upcoming class or classes.

There is no need to call. You will receive an email back once the class has been confirmed. We are hoping this will be an easier way for the members to find out what classes are scheduled for both training and CEUs. In addition, if you need a specific certification or qualification, please let us know and we will try and schedule a class. (ppatks.org)

We will continue weld training on Tuesday nights from 6 p.m. to 9:3 p.m. All members are welcome to attend as long as we have an open welding booth. We will continue this class every Tuesday night as long as members are attending. I would like to schedule one for the Topka Training Center. Once we have enough members signed up (minimum of five participants) we will set a recurring night for the weld training classes.

LU441 Apprentices showed their technical skills in a recent Apprenticeship Contest.

Thanks to our sponsors for the prizes that inspired fierce but friendly competition! Anton “James” Reynolds, Welder; Shane McAllister, Pipefitter; Cole Graham, Plumber; Jesse Kealy, HVAC, went on to represent 441 at the District IV Apprenticeship contest in Chicago.

Instructor Graduation in Ann Arbor, MI

Andy Tipton and Brian Burnett graduated with Associates Degrees from Washtenaw College in Ann Arbor, MI. Congrats, guys!

The Sad State of our State (and How YOU Can Help!) By Ann Mah, Candidate, State Board of Education

August revenues came in $10.5 million below estimates. That puts the state nearly $25 million below water in total for the first two months of the 2017 fiscal year. Revenue estimates will be re-set in November and then we’ll get a better idea of whether more mid-year budget cuts have to be made.

Seems like the 2017 budget has developed in pieces. It’s been hard to get our arms around where we really stand. The legislature left town with a budget that wasn’t even balanced. It was $140 million short.

They left the Governor to do the dirty work of budget cuts and fund transfers to try and reach zero by June 30. Most of these were one-time gimmicks. Even then the only way we made it through the 2016 fiscal year was by simply not paying bills in June and borrowing a billion dollars or so from our internal funds.

Another problem is that they pushed a number of expenses out to 2017 and beyond, but that just exacerbates the problem for whomever comes to town in January. Right now we’re looking at a $148 million deficit next June 30, and that doesn’t include the $25 million we fell short the last two months.

Best case, the budget and revenues are still hundreds of millions of dollars out of balance for years to come. We might hope for $6 billion in revenue this year but our expenses are estimated around $6.5 billion in 2018. The Governor has asked state agencies to prepare for a 5% budget cut just in case. Universities are cutting programs, cutting services, cutting hours, and really scrambling to manage the cuts they got this summer, let alone another 5%.

Cities and counties are picking up safety net services the state isn’t providing anymore. Even nursing homes are starting to close with the Medicaid cuts.

My point is not that we are in trouble. You knew that. My point is that whoever is elected in November has a big mess to clean up. So please research your vote before you enter the booth. Vote for people with the courage to make the tough decisions ahead of us. People who think long-term and won’t run out of town like cowards.

Those candidates are out there and they need your support.

www.AnnMah.org • Endorsed by Kansas AFL-CIO

Are YOU registered to vote? Find out at MyVoteInfo.VoteKS.org. (It’s painless and fast!)