Business Manager’s Report

Feast or Famine

Feast or famine… this is a common phrase used in association with our industry to illustrate the amount of work available at any given time. It would seem that 2013 is lining up to be a year that will fall into the “Feast” category.

We are fortunate to have several projects located within the jurisdiction of Local 441. Many of these projects are well underway or have started to man up such as: the Mars Plant in Topeka; the Airport Terminal in Wichita; Ft Riley and Iola Hospitals; Bio-Diesel Plant in Hugoton; Jeffrey Energy Center near St Marys; along with outages and several other projects too numerous to mention throughout the state.

Two other large projects scheduled to kick off include NBAF Central Plant in Manhattan and Pittsburg State Dorm Remodel. Some projects that look promising include additional phases at the Bio-Diesel Plant in Hugoton, Riverton Power Plant Upgrade in Southeast Kansas, and Wesley ICU Renovation in Wichita. Many of these projects are highlighted in this addition of the Kansas Direct Pipeline. This should be a good year for many of our contractors and all Local 441 members.

Negotiations have started this year with May 31, 2013, marking the end of our current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). These negotiations involve all Zones within the state and include not only wages and benefits, but all the language in the current CBA as well. The various negotiating committees and I have been researching and collecting information to aid us in obtaining the best contract that we can negotiate; while remaining competitive in the future. We have also received suggestions from the membership regarding possible changes or additions to the CBA that we will review. This is information that will greatly help us in determining what is important to the membership.

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to thank a special member of this Local Union, Denis Wittman. Brother Wittman retired as Business Representative for the Lawrence and Topeka area on February 28th after serving in that capacity since August of 2005. I have gained a tremendous amount of respect for Brother Wittman and I am grateful for the opportunity that I had to work with him over the past few years. He always, without exception, put this Local first and worked tirelessly to represent the membership and contractors of Local 441 with fairness and dignity. Thank you Brother for your service and your friendship and it is my hope that you and Cinda have many healthy years to enjoy your retirement together.

We have brought Rick Salyer on board to replace Denis Wittman as the Business Representative for the Topeka and Lawrence area. The vast knowledge Brother Salyer possesses related to our trade and the relationship he has with the membership and contractors will provide a background that will benefit him and this Local Union in his duties as Business Representative. His management skills and his many years of service working with the training department also greatly add to his abilities. Welcome Brother Salyer and I look forward to working with you.

[Continued on Page 6]

Retirement Reflections

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Choosing to retire was a difficult decision, but I decided it was time to move on to that next phase in my life that we all work toward. It has been a good decision in getting to spend more time with my family and grandchildren and just relaxing. I would like to say thank you to Richard Taylor for giving me the opportunity to serve as a Business Representative for Local 441. I have enjoyed working for Richard and with the other 441 Business Representatives.

Thanks to my special friend, Dwayne Peaslee, who guided and directed me many times. My job would not have been what it was without him. Thanks to all the 441 members for your help in making Local 441 a better working place. We have all strived to come together and make our Local one to be proud of. Wishing you all continued good work and a wonderful summer with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Denis Wittman
Unions: What are they and why does America need them?
By John “JB” Stange, Piping Industry News (March/April 2013)
This is a question that many people who may have never been exposed to a union or know somebody that is a member of one can have.
Unions are about a simple proposition: By joining together, working women and men gain strength in numbers so they can have a voice at work about what they care about. They negotiate a contract with their employer for things like a fair and safe workplace, better wages, and a secure retirement.
They have a voice in how their jobs get done; creating a more stable and productive workforce that provides better services and products. Unions are meeting the needs of American workers in today’s flexible and nontraditional work environments. Because no matter what type of job workers are in, by building power in unions they can speak out for fairness for all working people in their communities and create better standards and a strong middle class across the country.
Union members earn better wages and benefits than workers who aren’t union members. On average, union workers’ wages are 27 percent higher than their nonunion counterparts.
Here are some other interesting facts to consider when asked why America needs unions:
Unions help bring workers out of poverty and into the middle class. In states where workers don’t have union rights, workers’ incomes are lower.
In nearly every occupational category, workers who are not members of unions have smaller paychecks than union members. I think it is pretty obvious that the cost of not being able to bargain collectively is clear.
If someone asks you why you belong to a union, tell them about all the benefits and help them understand what a union can do for them!
Roughly 84 percent of workers in unions have paid sick leave compared with 64 percent of nonunion workers.
More than 83 percent of union workers have jobs that provide health insurance benefits, but only 62 percent of non-union workers do. Unions help employers create a more stable and productive workforce where workers have a say in improving their jobs.
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Employment Dispatch
Hello Brothers and Sisters
Welcome to spring! There have been a few changes since our last newsletter. I want to congratulate Denis Wittman on his retirement and say thank you for all your dedication and hard work. I also want to welcome Rick Salyer as new Business Representative.

Work in our local is very good and I expect near or full employment for the entire year. Everyone in our business knows there are good times and bad times. But not everyone knows when you have work you should man it, make the money, and prepare for the down turns. That’s exactly where we are at.

As members, yes, you have the right to turn a call down, but you also have an obligation to man the work when it is available. I expect to have traveler welders in our jurisdiction throughout most of the year and probably traveler plumbers and fitters on various jobs with a few local members turning down calls and riding the bench. Work is good and it is time to man it.

We have two contractors, U.S. Engineering and Waldinger Corp. currently on the new Mars Candy plant in Topeka. Each contractor’s scope of work will last for eight to nine months.

P1 Group has subcontracted the piping for the Selective Catalytic Reduction Project at Jeffrey Energy Center. Central Air was awarded the Pittsburg State Dellinger Hall renovation. Kruse Corp. was awarded a new school project at Ft. Riley. Waldinger has the new airport facility in Wichita. These are just a few of the bigger projects and as you can see there is work in every zone.

Work looks good Brothers and Sisters, take advantage of it and work safe!
Fraternally,
Bill Urton (316) 265-4291
Business Representative/Dispatcher

LOCAL UNION #441
Officers, Committee and Staff
Jerry D. Short, President
John Crusinberry, Vice-President
Richard L. Taylor, Business Manager and Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Kerry Stine, Recording Secretary
Mark Hromek, Sergeant-at-Arms

Kelly N. Short, Business Manager

BRIEF: What are they and why does America need them?
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Visiting YOUR Union Website:
www.UA441.org

Kansas Direct Pipeline
“Four for One”
Official publication of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union #441.
Kansas Direct Pipeline reserves the right to reject or discontinue any material considered unfair to Local #441.
Address all inquiries to:
1330 E 1st St, Ste 115, Wichita, KS 67214,
(316) 265-4291, email@ua441.org
Training

March and April are busy times of the year in the training department. We have just finished taking applications for the next group of new apprentices and are preparing for the interview process. We are hoping to take in about the same number as last year; with the amount of work that is projected throughout the state, we will need as many good young men and women as possible.

We recently sent four members to an orbital welding instructional class. The training department is hoping to have our first class in April or May; we have a list started for members interested in the upcoming orbital welding classes. If you are interested, please call the training center (316) 267-8508 and have your name added; space is limited.

We are sending two instructors to The Arc Flash Safety – OSHA NFPA 70E for the HVAC-R apprentices and journeymen. This certification is a growing need for our service contractors. As soon as certification classes are scheduled we will send out post cards to all members.

Now that our new Assistant Training Director Brian Burnett has joined us, we needed to replace him at the Topeka Training Center. Paul Miller will fill that slot. He will be instructing back flow, medical gas, and plumbing instruction for continuing education and journeymen classes.

We have UA weld testing, medical gas and OSHA classes scheduled for the upcoming months; if you are interested or need to keep up your certification, please call the training center to schedule.

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

Michael J. Magennis, Training Director

Manhattan/Fort Riley Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Work in the area is looking good. The Fort Riley area continues to grow in population and therefore new construction is on the rise. Our Fair Contractors continue to aggressively attempt to secure work for Local 441 members. Congratulations to Kruse Mechanical on the opening of a new shop in Manhattan! In addition to the projects Kruse has completed and/or has ongoing in Hays, Salina, Topeka, Junction City, Grandview Plaza, and Fort Riley, they have secured the new school project at Fort Riley.

Land ownership of the NBAF site has been transferred from Kansas to Homeland Security. UA Contractors U.S. Engineering and Alexander Mechanical have been awarded the Central Utility Plant. No noticeable increase in activity at the site has occurred, but we will see it in the near future.

I want to thank the 441 membership for helping support Working Kansans Alliance. WKA is on the frontlines in the battle for workers’ rights in Kansas. Please voice your support to our friends in the Kansas Legislature and your disapproval to our enemies.

I look forward to seeing you and please contact me anytime I can be of service.

Fraternally,

Phil Petty (785) 539-8977
Organizer/Business Representative

Frontenac Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Iola Hospital project with P1 is going very well. The crew had a small layoff the first of April, but has now started setting fixtures and should be finished by August. Saladino, a contractor from the KC area, is picking up the Mound City school projects. We have three men currently working this project. A Southeast Kansas contractor, Richland Mechanical out of Joplin, MO, was awarded the Baxter High School add-on job. Richland Mechanical is also looking to bid some of the work at the Riverton Power House. Hopefully, by the time you read this I will have good news regarding these projects.

The Riverton Project will bid by the time you read this article, as far as we know it will be a Union Project. Some of the site work and underground is bidding for early summer start time the rest of the project late fall or 2014. The PSU dorms project with Central Air is set to man up around mid-May. This will be a two summer project.

Also, Central Air is looking at putting a satellite office in Coffeyville as they have been adding more manpower in the area and doing more service work. CVR, who operates the Coffeyville Refinery and the Wynnewood Refinery (Oklahoma) along with a fertilizer plant also located in Coffeyville, has reported net sales of 8.5 billion for 2012. CVR is expected to spend around 285 million this year on upcoming projects.

It is important that we work hard to take back some of this work which has gone non-union. Currently, we are trying to set meetings to discuss what their needs might be in the future. Hopefully we can reach an agreement and build a good working relationship for future projects.

Also, Contracts are opening and if you, as a member, have any ideas regarding Southeast Kansas, please contact Richard or myself.

Fraternally Yours,

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

Notices of brothers and sisters who have passed on are posted on our website as received: www.ua441.org. Click on “Member Information” and “In Memoriam.”
Local 441 members are staying busy with a number of big projects around the state! It looks like work will continue to be steady.
Projects Around the State.

Riverton Power Plant
Southeast Kansas

St. Francis Hospital
Topeka, KS

Iola Hospital

Wesley Hospital ICU Renovation
Wichita, KS

Tecumseh Power Plant
Topeka, Kansas

State Capitol
Topeka, KS
Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

Many of you in the Topeka/Lawrence/Manhattan areas are familiar with me due to my 23 years as an Instructor in the Zone 2 Topeka/Lawrence Training Center. For those of you don’t, here’s some background. Topeka has been my hometown for my entire life. In 1977, I was fortunate to be accepted into Local 165’s Apprenticeship. I’ve been part of this Local Union for 35 years. Like most members, I’ve worked locally and on the road—_with stints in North Dakota, Missouri and Nebraska, along with many locations in Kansas.

I would like to thank Brother Denis Wittman for his years of dedication to our Local as our Business Representative for the Lawrence and Topeka areas. He has left big shoes to fill, but I will do my best to continue his good work. I would also like to thank Business Manager Rich Taylor for this excellent opportunity to be your Representative. I look forward to working with all the members of our Local Union.

Work looks good for this year. Mars M&N (U.S. Engineering/Waldinger) will continue to crew up as each bid package is released. While work at the Lawrence and Tecumseh Energy centers has slowed down, Jeffery Energy Center (Enerfab/P1) work is beginning to pick up. Work continues at the State Capital in Topeka (P1) and the Landon State Office Building (McElroy’s). Work is continuing at both the P1 and Taylor Forge fab shops.

As most of you aware we will start contract negotiations in April. Call or email myself or the main office if you have any changes or money issues that need addressed. Right now, conditions are favorable for us with the amount of work in the area.

On the political front, things are not going as well. Our Public Union Brothers and Sisters and Teachers are under an unprecedented attack from the “Tea Party” wing of the Republican party. They are fed by huge donations from single issue billionaires. We have joined with other unions to combat this onslaught on workers right, but it’s been tough. There is no opposition to our opponents except our unions and a dedicated, but small number, of Democrats and Moderate Republicans. Follow me on FaceBook and Twitter...I will do my best to provide the membership with “Up to the minute” links where our voices will be heard. There are online petitions to be signed, phone calls to be made, voter registration events, Rally’s to be held and “Boots on the ground” that our opponents cannot match.

My office is at the Topeka Training Center 2132 S Kansas Ave, don’t hesitate coming in to see me. The door is always open, if I’m there. The Weld shop will be open anytime a member needs access. Right now Tuesday and Thursday of each week, I will stay until 5:30 p.m. for welding practice. If you are between jobs, call me and I will make sure the shop will be open for you.

Here is my contact info:

Office phone: (785) 354-8539
Cell: (785) 423-4995
Topeka Fax: (785) 234-5768
Topeka Training Center: (785) 234-2006
e-mail: rsalyer@ua441.org
Facebook: Rick Salyer
Twitter: Rick_Salyer

Contact me anytime, Brothers. If I don’t answer, leave a message and I’ll call you back ASAP. 8 FOR 8.

Fraternally yours,
Rick Salyer, Topeka/Lawrence Business Representative
2132 S Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS 66611

Union Workers Take Action
Standing up for the Middle Class

Union members and their supporters have turned out for several actions over the last few months to stand up against Gov. Brownback’s hostile strategies against workers and the middle class.

Gov. Sam Brownback recently signed legislation barring public employee unions in Kansas from deducting money from members’ paychecks to help finance political activities. Another bill, HB2069, would suppress wages in Kansas. And, of course, Brownback’s income tax cut plan will bankrupt the state while the tax burden will shift to property and sales taxes, hitting hardest those Kansans who can least afford it. It’s a debacle.

The Working Kansas Alliance is organizing a rally for Saturday, May 4, at 3:30 p.m. at the State Capitol.


Mourn for the Dead Fight for the Living
WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28
Contacts

Wichita (316) 265-4291 Training (316) 267-8508
Topeka (785) 354-8539
Lawrence (785) 843-3151
Frontenac (620) 231-4280

Local Union 441 Website: www.ua441.org
PPATKS (Training) Website: www.ppats.org

The Health & Welfare Office handles your local pension information, KSR (401k), and general questions regarding your health insurance (such as your status in qualifying for insurance benefits.) If you have specific questions regarding your insurance, such as a list of doctors, please refer to the numbers listed below 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 Kansas www.bcbsks.com
(800) 432-3990 or (785) 291-4180

Delta Dental of Kansas www.DentalDentalKS.com
(800) 234-3375 or (316) 264-4511

If you have a Pension through the United Association, the National Pension office is where you 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 packet from National. Also request a work contribution history report from National Pension as this will assist you in the process.

National Pension (800) 638-7442
Local Pension (316) 264-2339 or (800) 423-6517
Kansas Annuity (620) 232-3799

United Association Website: www.UA.org

Ben Newhouse is Local 441’s Independent Financial Advisor.

Members, please feel free to give him a call at 1-866-577-7101, option 5, for assistance and advice with your Mass Mutual investment account.

Local 441 now can accept credit card payments. Forms of payment we can now accept are: cash, check, money order, Visa, Mastercard and Discover.

Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Health and Welfare Plan of Kansas

Delta Dental Details By Patrick Donohue, Plan Consultant

The Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Health and Welfare Plan of Kansas currently uses Delta Dental as the provider of dental benefits for our plan. The Trustees have just entered into a new contract that has the potential to save you and the Plan some valuable dollars in the years ahead. Delta Dental has (2) provider networks: “Delta Dental Premier” and “Delta Dental PPO.” More than 50% of Kansas Dentist participate in the Delta Dental PPO network, and more than 90% participate in Delta Dental Premier network.

You will still have the flexibility to choose a dentist from either network, but you will have lower out-of-pocket expenses when you see a Delta PPO dentist. You may have already selected a dentist from the PPO network and are already enjoying the cost savings of that decision. We encourage all plan participants and their families to strongly consider a Delta PPO dentist.

To select a Delta PPO dentist in your area or ascertain if your current dentist is a Delta PPO provider, you can go online at www.deltadentalks.com and go to the locate a dentist section or you may contact Delta directly at 800-234-3375. If you choose to remain with a Delta Premier dentist your dental coverage will not change.

The UA’s Green Initiative Recognized http://UA.org/green.asp

The UA Green Systems Awareness program was recently recognized by the United States Green Building Council’s Educational Provider Program. The UA’s Green Systems Awareness Certification program has met the following criteria established by the USGBC for educational programs: is preeminent in green building education and aligns with USGBC’s educational mission; offers courses at all learning levels to supplement USGBC’s core educational offerings, and is thoroughly reviewed and meets USGBC’s criteria for instructional design and content quality.
Grand Opening of Washburn Tech Midwest Training Center

Dan McCullogh, LU 441 HVAC Instructor, attended the March 2013 grand opening of the Washburn Tech Midwest Training Center in Topeka. The Center’s state-of-the-art training modules were constructed and installed by McElroy’s Inc., utilizing LU 441 members.

U.S. CEOs Paid 354 Times the Average Rank-and-File Worker—Largest Pay Gap in the World

New CEO pay numbers for S&P 500 released in 2013 Executive PayWatch [paywatch.org]

(Washington, April 15, 2013) — Coinciding with events by working families across the country on Tax Day, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka unveiled the 2013 Executive PayWatch, revealing that U.S. CEOs of the largest companies made 354 times the average rank-and-file worker—by far the widest pay gap in the world.

Last year, CEOs received on average $12.3 million while the average rank-and-file worker took home around $34,645. This new data confirms CEO-to-worker pay disparities have increased dramatically over the past several decades. Thirty years ago, CEOs were paid 42 times that of rank-and-file workers in the U.S. [Check it out at www.PayWatch.org]

Find us on Your “Smart” Device!

Use your QR Reader to log on to UA441.org! It’s a free app for most devices.

Now that’s a BIG one! (and a nice fish, too!)

LU441 Member Mike Mordica caught this Peacock Bass from the Rio Negro River in Amazon, Brazil. It weighed over 20 pounds, was 31 inches long and had a 22-inch girth.